

## Choosing a Childcare Provider



Leaving your child with someone else can be one of the hardest things you have to do. Take your time to do the search, as it will be worth every minute. Besides from having the comfort that your child is being well taken care of, you will be able to return to work with a minimum of guilt and worry.

The best advise around is 'trust your instincts' when looking for childcare. If it doesn't feel right, even if you can't pinpoint why, continue looking. There are many options for childcare now so shop around and interview several people and places even if you think you have found what you are looking for. You will be more confident in your decision if you do your research fully.

### **In-Home Childcare**

If you are looking for someone to come into your home then you want to make sure the person you are hiring shares your philosophy of child raising including feeding, sleeping, schedules, discipline, expression of affection etc. Include your child in the interviews so that you will be able to see how the individual responds to your child as well as to observe how comfortable your child is.

There are some common questions that you should ask any in-home caregiver:

- ✓ What is your experience with children?
- ✓ How would you handle an emergency such as...?
- ✓ Why are you interested in this job?

Be upfront about your household rules such as smoking, drinking, food, visitors, and use of the phone and television. If this is a potential candidate *then* discuss salary and work schedule last.

### **Out-of-Home Childcare**

The same suggestions apply as the in home caregiver as far as the interview and requirements but you are going to need to make sure that the new environment is best for your child.

- ✓ Do the other children seem happy and relaxed?
- ✓ Is the environment safe, clean, attractive and large enough for the children including the bedrooms and bathrooms?
- ✓ Does the staff interact and communicate easily and well with each child?
- ✓ What qualifications do the providers have?
- ✓ What is the ratio of adults to children?

