

A Look At Places To Step Ahead

This worksheet is provided to help parent(s) think about the strengths and areas in need of improvement of particular programs being considered for their child. This information will be useful in planning as your child prepares to transition out of the Local Infants and Toddlers Program. The form can be completed for each program being considered.

PROGRAM NAME: _____ CONTACT: _____

BEFORE OR AFTER THE VISIT

What are the days and hours of the program? M T W TH F _____:____ to _____:

How many children are in a group where my child would be placed and what are their ages?

Groups of: <10 10-15 15-20 >20 Ages: 1 2 3 4 5 >5

What are the transportation options? _____

Are there any costs; if so what? _____

What type of training and education does the staff have? _____

When I have time, may I stay and watch?

yes, anytime yes, at scheduled times only on special occasions no

Comments: _____

ASK OTHER PARENTS

Does your child enjoy going to the program? yes no Comments: _____

What do you like most about the program? _____

What are some of the things you don't like? _____

How are families involved in the program? _____

If you had to choose again, would your child still attend this program? yes no

Comments: _____

Tips For Initial Program Visits

- Make an appointment. Visit only at the time scheduled.
- Upon arrival, check in at the appropriate place.
- Ask the teacher/caregiver where to sit and whether to interact with the children.
- Schedule a time to talk with the teacher/caregiver privately at the end of your visit or at a later time.
- Ask the teachers/caregiver how they would help ease your child into their program.

*Remember that the time of the year influences your observations
(children act differently at the beginning than at the end of the year).*

DURING THE VISIT

A Look at the Environment:	Yes	No	Comments
Does the program look clean, safe and accessible?			
Does the program carry state or national accreditation?			
Is the ratio of adults to children in this program adequate?			
Do the toys and materials support different types of learning, such as imaginative play, building projects, arts and crafts, other?			
Does the environment show respect for different cultures, languages, values, and traditions?			
Is there a time and space for both quiet and active play?			
A Look at the Program Staff:			
Are the staff actively involved in every aspect of the children's day (during play, meals, outdoor activities)?			
Do the staff seem flexible about adapting activities, environments, and curriculum?			
Do the program staff use calm voices and talk to the children on their level?			
Is communication encouraged?			
Am I comfortable with the way the program staff discipline the children?			
Do the caregivers praise accomplishments and help resolve conflicts?			
Do the caregivers seem to enjoy and respect the children? Are children with diverse needs (culture, language, disability) welcomed and made to feel comfortable?			
A Look at the Children:			
Are the children doing activities that suit their age and stage of development?			
Are the children given a chance to make choices about activities that interest them?			
Are the children actively involved with materials and each other?			
Do the children appear to be happy and enjoying themselves?			

Notes _____
