

# Choosing the Best Childcare Center



## Prior to Visiting:

- *Check licensing reports online*
  - <https://dss.virginia.gov/facility/search/cc2.cgi>
- *Research the provider*
  - Website, Word of Mouth, Testimonials, Program Calendar

## During your visit/tour:

- *Overall Environment*
  - Welcoming, Friendly, Organized, Security and Safety
- *Child Spaces*
  - Cleanliness
  - Open spaces for movement
  - Evidence of child creativity
  - Toddlers and Preschoolers
    - Different play areas, shelves with organized and accessible materials, visual daily schedule
  - Infants
    - Floor space, few/if any containers, spaces for sleep, variety of materials
- *Outdoor Space*
  - Materials and equipment, everyone goes outside, program philosophy
- *Teacher Child Interactions*
  - On children's level, eye contact, interest, conversations, vocabulary
- *Child Engagement*
  - Children are involved and engaged, happy and content, playing with each other, able to make choices