

day at this child care operation? Does your child seem to like it? Meet the caregiver or director. Ask questions and discuss your concerns. Make sure you are happy with their answers.

### Questions to Ask a Potential Provider

When you visit a potential child care provider or operation. Come with several questions in mind. These could include:

- May I see your state permit and your last inspection report? What experience and training do you have in caring for children?
- How many children do you care for and how do you ensure that you meet all their needs?
- May I see your operational policies so I can learn more about your services and program requirements?
- What is a typical day like for a child in your care?
- How do you protect the health and safety of children in your care?
- What type of safe sleep practices do you follow?
- How do you discipline children?
- How do you handle emergencies and under what circumstances will you contact me?
- How will you discuss progress and concerns related to my child?



### Stay Involved

Once you pick a child care provider, it's important to stay involved. This is the best way to make sure your child is happy, safe, learning and developing.

- Keep talking with the caregiver. Ask to see weekly activity plans and menus. Ask how your child is behaving, getting along with others, making progress and if your child is having difficulty adjusting.
- Keep talking to your child. Ask them how the day went, what they did, who they saw or if anything special happened. If your child doesn't want to go back, find out why and follow up with the caregiver.
- Report anything that could affect your child's health or safety as soon as possible. Call the toll-free Texas Abuse Hotline 24/7 at 800-252-5400 if you suspect a child has been abused or neglected, or if you think a child care center or home is operating without a state permit. For emergencies, call 911. The law protects people who make a report in good faith from legal liability.

THE MORE YOU **KNOW** THE BETTER THEY'LL **GROW**



### Unregulated Operations Unit

To learn more, email [unregulatedoperations@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:unregulatedoperations@hhs.texas.gov)



One of the biggest decisions a parent has to make is choosing a caregiver for their child. So, the more you know, the better they'll grow! While a caregiver's time with your child can't replace your own love and attention, choosing quality child care will help develop the whole child by fostering self-esteem and cognitive, language and social skills.



### Choose Regulated Child Care

Child Care Regulation (CCR) is a statewide program that regulates child care operations to protect children's health, safety and well-being. CCR regulates child care centers and in-home child care. When you choose regulated child care, you are choosing a provider that is permitted by the state. This means:

- The provider is committed to the child care profession and is required to follow minimum standard rules and relevant laws.
- The provider receives access to other services that support the quality of the program.
  - The provider completes background checks on employees and, for in-home care, household members.
  - The state conducts inspections to ensure the provider meets health and safety standards, takes appropriate enforcement actions when needed and gives targeted technical assistance to promote compliance.

### How to Search for Child Care

1. **Do Your Research.** TXchildcaresearch.org is the state's database of regulated child care providers. You can view permitted child care providers in your area, obtain information on the program and services they offer, and review CCR inspection results. To get started with your child care search, you can ask friends, family and other parents for recommendations.
2. **Find the Right Fit.** While you are gathering information on child care providers, look for features that will help your child thrive. Consider the caregiver's education, experience and training, as well as the setting and size of the group.
3. **Check Them Out.** Once you have narrowed down your search, take the time to visit each child care operation with your child when children are present. Observe their activities, how the caregiver interacts with the children and how the children like it there. Put yourself in your child's shoes. Would you like to spend the

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