



# What to look for when choosing quality child care

The YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral knows that finding quality childcare is not always easy. It is difficult to know which questions to ask and what to look for when visiting with a potential child care provider. Always remember that the best answer to selecting appropriate child care is to use your instincts. If the facility, staff or provider does not "feel" right, then it is probably not the best place for your child.

Here are a few guidelines to evaluate when considering a family child care home or a child care center for your child. By helping you to answer these questions and more, the YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral can help you to be more aware of what quality child care is and assist you with locating early care and education programs that will best fit you and your child's needs.

- **Look:** Visit the home or center more than once, at different times.
- **Look:** Is the environment clean and safe?
- **Listen:** How does the setting sound? Is there positive interaction? Does the provider greet you and your child?
- **Ask:** Inquire about staff training, education, experience, and turnover rate.
- **Count:** What is the staff to children ratio?
- **Find:** What is the provider doing to improve or maintain quality child care?
- **Ask:** What activities are offered to encourage family involvement? Are children allowed to bring items from home (toys, blankets, etc.)?

For assistance in finding a child care provider please contact the YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral in your area.

### Toledo

Defiance, Fulton, Henry,  
Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding,  
Williams, Wood  
**(800) 632-3052**

### Lima

Allen, Auglaize,  
Hancock, Hardin,  
Mercer, Putnman, Van  
Wert, Wyandot  
**(800) 992-2916**

### Mansfield

Crawford, Marion,  
Morrow, Richland  
**(855) 548-9598**

**YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral**

*— Parents. Providers. Community . . . Linking you to quality.*

