

A NAVY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER WALK-THROUGH

Let your Senses Be Your Guide

Look for...

- Happy children!
- Children at rest.
- Children eating snack/lunch with pleasant conversation.
- Children and caregivers interacting.
- Children at play. They learn by painting, building with blocks, role playing in the housekeeping area, working with clay, puzzles and table games, participating in circle activities, and on the playground, rather than sitting/waiting in line for long periods.
- Children's creative art work displayed (painting, clay creations, original crayon drawings or collages) rather than teacher-made or commercial materials or dittos to color.
- Approved child-caregiver ratios and group sizes observed.
- Furniture scaled to sizes of children.
- Room/building capacities posted and observed.
- Daily activity schedule posted in each classroom
- Fire evacuation plans posted
- Cleanliness/neatness
- Well lighted facility
- Current information on neat bulletin boards
- Hand washing facilities in diaper-changing area.
- Diaper disposal cans with tight-fitting lids
- Emergency evacuation cribs in the infant room.

Child Development Centers may experience a high noise level of busy, happy expressive sounds. You may also expect to occasionally hear a child crying. Children vent their frustrations much easier than adults. Infants alert us by fretting/crying.

Listen For...

- Caregivers and children speaking in a respectful manner.
- Children's voices talking, cooing, laughing, squealing, singing or crying.
- Children who want to share an idea with you.
- Music playing.
- T.V. only used for specific reasons for short periods of time.

Sniff for...

- Pleasant aromas.
- Mild disinfectant odors.
- Proper ventilation evident throughout the center

Ask About...

- Where dangerous chemicals/furnace are located.
- An isolation area for ill children.
- Staff certification in CPR/First Aid.
- Available drop-in care.
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for this center.
- Classroom evaluations (ECERS –Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale).
- Caregiver training.
- Food preparation.
- Patron satisfaction surveys/Needs assessments.
- A copy of Parent Handbook.
- Fire/health inspections.

Most important of all - What kind of **“feeling”** do you pick up during your visit?