

## **Making the Most of Your Visit to a Child Development Home (CDH)**

### As you walk up to the door:

Note the window emblem identifying this home as a Certified Navy **CDH** home. This emblem indicates the provider has had extensive child development training, completed background checks and that the home has been inspected for health and safety standards.

### Upon entering the home and signing the visitors book:

Note the space for children to place their belongings (a piece of the home belongs to them) and space for parents and children to have smooth transitions from parents to providers and vice versa.

Also note the contents of the bulletin board that aid in communicating with parents and are reviewed during their monthly home inspection. The bulletin board should contain weekly USDA menus, documented fire drills, substitute provider and emergency care information, DoD Child Abuse/Safety Violation Hotline Poster, weekly activity schedule, touch policy, and a section for parents.

### Once inside the home take a look at the environment:

The environment is important because children spend most of their waking hours here and need to feel they belong. There needs to be adequate space and challenging activities for children to positively grow and develop.

- The provider can tell you how she has successfully combined her child care business and her family space. Providers are not required to turn their home into a “mini child care center” but are expected to create child-oriented environments in their quarters. For example, is there children’s artwork posted at the child’s eye level? A step stool at the bathroom sink? Do children have access to different areas of the home without being scrunched into a back bedroom? Are appropriate materials stored and labeled on low shelves for easy access?
- Ask the provider to explain how the activities support each child’s growth and development. Are all groups working on different projects designed for their age? What kinds of equipment and materials are available to children?
- Ask how the provider administers medications, screens children for illness, or informs parents of accidents and illness. Look for ways in which the provider protects children’s safety, such as covered electrical outlets and if toys with small pieces are safe from toddler’s reach. Outside areas should have safe, open spaces for children to run, and gardening tools, lawn mowers, and grills should be secured from small hands.