Child Care Checklist for Your Baby

Use the following checklist as a guide to help you through the important decision making process of selecting a child care facility/provider that will keep your child healthy and safe.

Place a check in the box if it meets your expectations.

	Education, Training, and Experience
	Is the child care provider licensed by the State of Kansas?
	How much experience does the child care provider have caring for infants that are not their own?
	Are there other staff that will help take care of my baby? □ *If yes, ask to meet them. If that's not possible, ask for their names and what their experience and qualifications are.*
	What training and education have the child care provider and staff had? □ *Ask if the provider has had specific training on children's development.* □ *Ask how the provider is continuing to receive training on caring for infants and children.* □ *Kansas regulations require providers and staff to receive continued training on risk reduction and child growth and development.*
	Have the provider and staff had safe sleep training? □ *Ask the provider to tell you about their training and education. They should know that babies should always sleep alone, on their back and in a crib. You may encourage them to watch the Safe Sleep Kansas Video (www.safesleepkansas.org).*
	Do all staff have current certification/training in first aid and infant/pediatric CPR? □ *Kansas regulations require child care providers to be certified in infant/ pediatric CPR.*
	Have the provider and staff been trained on child abuse prevention and how to report suspected cases? □ *Ask to see a copy of the providers KBI. A KBI criminal history and child abuse and neglect background check is processed on all persons living, working or volunteering in the licensed day care home.*

	Safe Sleep for Your Baby
	Will my baby always be placed to sleep alone, in a crib, on his/her back for every sleep time, including naps? □ *There should always be one infant per crib.* □ *Kansas law requires a crib or playpen to be used for each child under 18 months.* □ *Ask to see where your baby will be sleeping. There should be nothing in the crib except a firm mattress with a single fitted sheet over it. This includes NO loose bedding, pillows, stuffed animals, toys, burp cloths, bottles, sleep positioners, or bumper pads. Make sure the provider and staff know this is how you always want your baby's sleep environment to look like.* □ *Ask if the provider uses a wearable sleeper such as a Sleepsack® as an alternative to blankets.* □ *Infants should never be placed or left to sleep on a couch, futon, adult bed, car seat, bouncer or swing.* □ *Make sure that the provider and staff know that you always want your **baby placed on their back to sleep** and you want their head to remain uncovered during sleep.*
	Will my baby be supervised at all times, including while he/she is sleeping? □ *Kansas regulations require infants to be physically checked on approximately every 15 minutes.*

Notes:

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Place a check in the box if it meets your expectations.

Is This a Safe and Healthy Place for My Child?	
	Is the caregiver to child ratio appropriate? □ *The recommended guidelines for infants is one caregiver per 3 or 4 infants (age 0-18 months).* □ *Take note of the number and ages of other additional children in care.*
	Make sure the house/facility is a clean environment and free from hazards. □ *Do adults and children wash their hands before/after eating, after toileting, and as needed?* □ *Are surfaces used to serve food cleaned and sanitized? How are they sanitized?* □ *Are diaper changing surfaces cleaned and sanitized after each use?* □ *Do all children enrolled have the required immunizations?* □ *Are medications labeled and locked up out of children's reach?* □ *Are cleaning supplies and other poisonous materials locked up and out of children's reach?* □ *Are safety gates used to keep children away from potentially dangerous areas, especially stairs and kitchens?* □ *Are all electrical outlets covered with safety caps/protectors?*
	What is done in the case of an emergency situation? □ *In an emergency, ask that they call 911 first and then notify you immediately.* □ *In the case of inclement weather, do they have a plan for tornado, storms, floods?* □ *Is there a fire escape plan?* □ *Are there smoke detectors and fire extinguishers?* □ *Do they have a plan for serious injury, what happens to your infant as they deal with the situation for another child?* □ *Are first aid kits readily available?*

Other Important Factors to Consider	
	Are the staff warm and nurturing?
	Does the staff pay individual attention to each child?
	Does the provider have a daily or weekly schedule?
	Are there interactive toys for children to play with? Do staff read to the infants and children? These things will help your child grow and learn.
	Does the staff handle children's behavior in positive ways?
	Is staff turnover low so that children will feel a bond with the caregiver(s)?
	Ask if any staff or anyone in the home/facility smoke and see if you smell cigarette odor in the home/facility. The Kansas law (K.A.R. 28-4-116) states that no person shall smoke while providing direct physical care to children.
	Get referrals from parents that currently have their children at the daycare as well as previous parents. Ask these parents if there were any incidents in the home/facility that involved their children or any other children.
	You can do an open records request to access credentials, background information and any past violations or license suspensions by contacting the Kansas Department of Health and Environment at 785-296-1270.

Notes:

Sources: ChildCare Aware of Kansas, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Healthy Children, Kansas Department of Health and Environment [KDHE], The National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies [NACCRRA], SIDS Network of Kansas, Inc.

**For questions regarding this form please contact the SIDS Network of Kansas at 1-866-399-7437 or visit sidsks.org.*