

## Family Child Care Selection Checklist

Finding quality childcare can be a challenge. The following checklist, although not inclusive, is provided to help guide you in selecting a Family Child Care Provider that meets your child's needs. If you should need assistance, have questions or concerns, or would like to become a provider yourself, please do not hesitate to call the Family Child Care Office at 707-424-4596 / 707-424-8104.

- ♥ Interview several providers - start the interview process in advance of need.
- ♥ Ask for references - whenever possible, contact current and past parents. Don't be afraid to ask questions about the care provided in the home!
- ♥ Find out if the home is licensed - all licensed homes display the Family Child Care logo in their front window and have a license signed by the Mission Support Group Commander posted on their parent board.
- ♥ Ask about the availability of back up care in the event the provider is unable to provide care for your child.
- ♥ Spend as much time as possible with the provider to see if his/her attitudes regarding child-rearing practices are compatible with your own.
- ♥ Let the provider interact with your child - not all providers and children are well-matched. You should try to select a provider with whom your child feels at ease with. Does the provider respond and talk to children in a positive, warm and understanding way?
- ♥ Ask very specific questions about the provider's discipline techniques - Family Child Care providers are prohibited from using corporal punishment even with parental permission.
- ♥ Clarify your needs and expectations - be sure you and the provider understand all that is expected from the child care arrangement. Do the program philosophies and values coincide with your own?
- ♥ Review the provider contract prior to signing. Ask about the provider's rates. If you would like to participate in the AF Subsidy Program, does the provider accept subsidy?
- ♥ Ask about flexibility of provider's hours. Can the provider accommodate the hours you need?
- ♥ Look for evidence of good hygiene and sanitary conditions - all licensed homes are inspected monthly. Ask to review the provider's last home inspection or drop by the Family Child Care office for information.
- ♥ Review the daily schedule and activity plans - do the activities planned for the children offer a balance of inside/outside and child/teacher initiated activities?
- ♥ **If the provider you have interviewed seems to be wrong for you or your child - find someone else.**