



## Non-Traditional Child Care Checklist

Keep the following statements in mind when you are looking for an evening, overnight or weekend program for your child, along with the advantages and disadvantages found in the First Steps booklet. You can discuss with the provider some of these statements directly; you will get answers to many of them just by observing the program. Add any questions or concerns you may have to this list.

### Some General Questions

- Is the provider licensed? Is the provider licensed for overnight care? How many children is the provider caring for?
- Do the provider's hours of operation meet your needs?
- Is the provider willing to accommodate your family's needs?
- Are parents informed of the fees and what they include?

### About the Provider

- The provider openly discusses past work experiences. These experiences include evening, overnight or weekend care.
- The provider's discipline and teaching strategies are similar to some of your own.
- The provider encourages parent involvement.

### About the Environment

- The provider openly discusses the areas of the home used for child care.
- The provider informs parents about others in the home while children are being cared for.

- The provider takes steps to ensure the safety of the environment, such as: smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are present and discussed with parents.
- The provider is certified in CPR and basic First Aid procedures.
- A written evacuation plan is discussed with parents.
- If/when activities involve transporting the children, the provider uses the necessary safety equipment (i.e. car seats, bicycle helmets, etc.).
- The program is structured and time are set for activities (i.e. snack time, story time, etc.).
- A variety of activities are offered and your child is able to make his/her own choices.

### About the Program

- The typical evening, bedtime/nighttime, or weekend routine is discussed with parents.
- Parents are informed about the meals/snacks served while children are being cared for.
- An individual bed or cot is reserved specifically for your child. The provider informs parents on the bedding used and how often it's changed.
- The toys used are safe and interesting to your child. The toys reflect a diverse population (i.e. gender, race, ethnicity, and disabilities). There are enough toys for the number of children in the group.

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## Non-Traditional Child Care Checklist (continued)

### **Night Care**

According to the Illinois licensing standards for family child care homes, providers need to comply with special requirements when receiving children for night care:

- Meals and snacks should be provided to meet the daily nutritional requirements of the child for the time that the child is in the care (i.e., evening meal, bedtime snack, morning meal).
- Each child will be provided a bed, crib, or cot, and individual linens that are clean and comfortable. Three variations of this rule are:
  - Two toilet-trained children of the same sex can share a full-sized bed.
  - When using a crib, the mattress cannot allow for more than one and one-half inches of space between the mattress and the bed frame.
  - Rubber sheets should be used when necessary.
- Each child should be provided individual toilet articles (i.e., comb, toothbrush, towel and washcloth). If needed, a child should be bathed. No child under the age of five should be left unattended while in the bathtub.

- A bedtime and rising routine should be established, including brushing teeth and combing/brushing hair.

### **Other Topics to Discuss**

- The provider has a low ratio of children to staff.
- The provider has worked in a child care setting for at least one year.
- The provider has a back-up plan in place when they are sick or on vacation.