

For more information contact



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www.eycbrant.ca

Administered by Community Living Brant



Funded by the
Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Quality
Childcare

Brant
A quality direction

Centre or Home Child Care

Sample Questions for Reference Check

Name of caregiver/centre

Name of reference

Phone number

Relationship (if any) to caregiver

1. When did you use this caregiver/centre?
2. For how long?
3. How old was your child?
4. Why did you end the child care arrangements?
5. Does the caregiver appear to enjoy the company of children? (Explain)
6. How does the caregiver show affection toward children? (Give examples)
7. How does the caregiver discipline children?
Have you ever heard her yell at the children? (Give me an example)
8. Is the caregiver always aware of where children are and what they are doing?
9. Does the caregiver create an environment that is stimulating to the children?
10. Does the caregiver communicate with parents regularly?
11. How does she do this?
12. Would you recommend her to a friend?
13. Why or why not?
14. Is there anything else I should know?

*Be sure to ask any other question to determine personal suitability.



Quality Child Care Information

The information you need to find quality child care in Brant can be found in this brochure. It will help direct your search by providing you with the tools you need.

Feel free to reproduce as many copies of this brochure as you need to assist you in your search for quality child care.

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Steps to finding care for your child(ren)

1. *Determine your child care needs*

- ✓ individual needs of the child
(ex. availability of required supports)
- ✓ family needs
(ex. subsidized care, cultural needs)
- ✓ child care philosophy

2. *Explore your child care options*

- ✓ licensed centre care
- ✓ informal home day care
- ✓ licensed home day care agencies

3. *Assess your child care options*

- ✓ telephone interview potential caregivers
- ✓ visit and interview potential caregivers
- ✓ check references

4. *Finalize arrangements*

- ✓ make your choice
- ✓ determine ground rules
- ✓ sign releases/contracts
- ✓ provide background information
(ex. medical, family information)

5. *Maintaining quality care*

- ✓ support your caregiver
- ✓ participate in your child's care
- ✓ monitor child care arrangements
- ✓ ongoing open communication

Home Child Care

Sample Questions for Visit and Interview (con't)

Name of Potential Caregiver

1. How have you child-proofed your home?
2. Can I tour your entire home?
3. What are your safety rules for indoors and outdoors?
4. Do the children watch television every day?
Do you limit T.V. time?
5. Do you monitor T.V. time?
6. Under what circumstances would you call me at work?
7. How do you try to prevent illnesses from spreading?
8. Do you have a menu plan?
9. How closely do you follow it?
10. When and where will my child sleep?
11. Will he/she have his/her own bedding?
12. How do you deal with a child who cries when his/her parents leave?
13. What methods of discipline do you find work best with a _____ year old child?
14. Tell me about the other children you care for.
15. What do you like best/least about caregiving?
16. How does your family support you in caregiving?
17. Do you have any other supports? (ex. Resource Centres)
18. When do you do your housework?
19. Who else will be in the home while my child is in your care?
20. When can I meet them?
21. May I have the names of two current or former parents as references?
22. Do you have a current criminal reference check (police check)?

Home Child Care

Sample Questions for Visit and Interview

Name of Potential Caregiver

1. What are your fees?
How/when paid?
2. When are receipts given?
3. How much notice is required for termination?
4. What hours do you offer care?
5. Option for care outside regular hours?
6. Do I pay for Statutory holidays or sick days?
7. What are your closure days?
8. How long is your vacation?
9. When?
10. How many weeks unpaid vacation do you allow each family?
11. When you are ill, who's responsibility is it to find alternative care?
12. What is your policy regarding child's illness?
13. Are there any supplies I need to provide for my child's care?
14. What methods of communication with parents do you use?
15. What is your policy on drop-in visits?
16. Do you have personal liability insurance?
17. Do you have household insurance?
18. Do you have car insurance?
19. Do you have an emergency location?
20. What activities with children do you enjoy most/least?
21. Do you have a regular schedule?
22. Please describe it.
23. What toys/equipment do you have for my child?
24. How much time do you spend outdoors?

Brant Child Care Options

The options in Brant range from an unlicensed setting to a licensed setting. Unlicensed child care refers to a caregiver who chooses to care for up to five children plus her/his own children in their home. Parents are responsible for monitoring this type of child care arrangement.

Licensed child care refers to either a Child Care Centre, or a Home Child Care Agency that is licensed by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. There are many types of licensed child care programs in Brant.

Definitions

Informal Home Child Care (also referred to as unlicensed child care)

- ✓ occurs in your own home or in the caregiver's home
- ✓ it is monitored solely by the parents
- ✓ the caregiver may care for up to five children plus his/her own per premise

Private Home Child Care (linked to a licensed agency)

- ✓ homes are monitored by an agency that is licensed by Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- ✓ caregivers may provide care for up to five children including his/her own (some restrictions may apply per premise)
- ✓ must comply with minimum standards set in the Day Nurseries Act

Licensed Centre Care

- ✓ centre is licensed by Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- ✓ most caregivers have some formal training
- ✓ must comply with minimum standards set in the Day Nurseries Act

Definition of Age Groupings

Home Child Care

Infant

Refers to children under 18 months of age



Toddler

Refers to children 18 months of age and up to and including 30 months of age



Preschool

Refers to children more than 30 months of age up to and including 5 years of age



School Age

Refers to children 6 years of age and up to and including 12 years of age



Sample Questions for Telephone Interview

Date

Name of Potential Caregiver

Address

Phone Number

Closest Intersection

1. What age of children do you provide care for?
2. Do you have any openings?
3. For what age?
4. I need care starting on _____. Are you interested in providing care?
5. What is the maximum number of children you want to care for?
6. Do you have children of your own?
7. How old are they?
8. What training/experience in child care do you have?
9. Do you have first aid/CPR training?
10. From where?
11. Is your home registered with a licensed agency?
12. Do you provide receipts?
13. Does anyone in your home smoke? (Specify)
14. Do you have pets? (Specify)
15. Do you have use of a car?

*Be sure to ask any other questions necessary to decide whether or not you want to make a visit (ex. special diet)

Centre Care

Sample Questions for Visit and Interview (con't)

Name of Centre

For the Caregivers

1. Do you have a regular schedule?
2. How closely do you follow it?
3. What activities do you do every day with the children?
4. What kind of toys and/or equipment do you have for my child?
5. Do you use television/videos in your program?
6. How often?
7. How much time do you spend outdoors?
8. What are your indoor/outdoor safety rules for my child's age group?
9. Under what circumstances would you call me at work?
10. May I see the weekly menu?
11. How closely do you follow it?
12. When and where will my child sleep?
13. Does he/she have his/her own bedding?
14. What happens if my child doesn't want to sleep?
15. How do you deal with a child who cries when his/her parents leave?
16. What methods of discipline do you find work best with a ____ year old child?
17. How do you help children feel good about themselves?
18. Tell me about the children in your group.
19. What do you enjoy most/least about working with young children and their families?

Definition of Types of Care

Half Day

A program that operates for less than six hours in a period of 24 hours.

Full Day

A program that operates for six or more hours in a period of 24 hours.

Part time

A program that offers care for less than five days per week.

Flexible Care

A program that offers care according to parent schedule.

Centre Example: Week one - Tues. Wed. Fri.

Week two – Mon. Thurs.

Home Care Example: Evenings, early morning, weekends

School Age

A program provided for children from six up to and including twelve years of age, before and after school, during lunch hours and on school holidays.

Co-operative/Parent Participation Preschool

A program governed by a Board of Directors including parents of children who attend the program.

Centre Care

Sample Questions for Telephone Interview

Date

Name of Centre

Name of Supervisor

Address

Phone

1. What are the hours of operation?
2. Do you operate year round?
3. I have a child who is _____ years old. Do you have any openings for my child starting on (date)?
4. If not, how long is your waiting list?
5. How does your waiting list work?
6. What do you charge per day/week/month?
7. Are there any additional fees involved?
8. How many children are there in the centre?
9. How many children would be in the same group as my child?
10. What is the age range within this group?
11. What is the child/caregiver ratio for my child's age group?
12. What are the minimum qualifications for staff?
13. Do you have any written information, such as policies, annual reports, or parent handbooks you could send me?
14. Are there any restrictions/conditions on your licence?
15. How do I apply?

*Be sure to ask any other questions necessary to decide whether or not you want to make a visit (ex. special diet, behaviour management)

Centre Care

Sample Questions for Visit and Interview

Name of Centre

For the Centre Supervisor

1. What methods of communication do you use with parents?
2. What is your policy on drop-in visits?
3. Will my child have one primary caregiver?
4. Is there a parents' committee?
5. What is the Centre's philosophy and goals?
6. How do you prevent illness from spreading?
7. Do the staff have first aid training?
8. Have you had any serious occurrences in the past year? (Specify)
9. What is the registration fee?
10. Is it refundable?
11. Method of payment ____cash ____cheque (payable to whom?)
12. How much notice is required for termination?
13. Do I pay regular fees for statutory holidays?
14. What are the Centre closures?
15. Do I pay regular fees for sick days?
16. How many unpaid vacation days do you allow?
17. Is there anything I need to supply for my child's care?
18. May I see your licence, annual report, written guidelines or policies?
19. May I have the names of two current or former parents as references?