

Daycare Assessment

Daycare Centers vs. Family Child Care

Daycare centers are generally set up more like classrooms with larger groups of kids and several teachers available. Generally these centers serve ages two and up and the groups are divided into various programs. There are also specific programs just for infants which you'll find outlined on a separate page. Oftentimes after school care is available, summer programs are also a nice perk for working parents.

In home centers are generally set up "in-home" and run by the owner. The groups are generally smaller which allows the kids to develop strong bonds with their teachers. While these centers are generally run by a sole proprietor, they often have assistants to help out.

Well-Trained Directors & Responsible Adults

There are many questions to ask of the people who will be looking after your little one day after day. Some of these questions can be answered by observing daily routines and seeing how the kids and teachers interact. Ask yourself—

Does the staff talk to the kids? The best daycare providers interact with the kids on their level. Do they get down on their knees and sit on the floor? Are they laughing and smiling?

How does the staff discipline the kids - are they patient and guiding or punishment driven?

What is the staff to kids ratio? The fewer children that each staff member is responsible for, the better. For California's provider/child ratio breakdown by age group and type of center, [click here](#).

Does the director have a degree in child development or related field?

What is the turnover rate amongst the staff?

Does the staff take continuing classes to keep their skills fresh? Well-trained staff members need to be educated in child development, basic first aid, how to identify child abuse, and how to prevent injury.