

## choosing a childcare provider

We understand that entrusting a stranger with your child is a big step, so before you choose us or any other provider you may want to consider the following tips:

- give yourself plenty of time to choose
- ask other parents for recommendations
- make appointments to visit two or three providers to compare what's on offer, and get a feel for the staff
- think about your child's personality and interests – what environment will they prefer?
- check opening times, holiday dates and costs

### questions to ask childcare providers

You may want to ask about the following: \_\_\_\_\_

- safety – what happens in an emergency? \_\_\_\_\_
- are the premises secure (can strangers get in)? \_\_\_\_\_
- what training and experience do the carers have? \_\_\_\_\_
- how does the provider report safety incidents to parents? \_\_\_\_\_
- do the carers know first aid? \_\_\_\_\_
- what is the staff's view on discipline? \_\_\_\_\_
- what activities are on offer? \_\_\_\_\_
- how will your child settle in to the setting? \_\_\_\_\_
- what happens if you are late picking up your child? \_\_\_\_\_
- what food is provided (is it healthy)? \_\_\_\_\_
- who can you talk to about your child's progress? \_\_\_\_\_
- what happens if your child becomes ill? \_\_\_\_\_

It might also be a good idea to ask to see the provider's written health and safety policy (every group care provider should have one).

### notes:

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