

What to Look for in a Center-Based Program

- for infants and toddlers: soft and cozy spaces, personalized adult attention for each child, activities geared toward the individual child rather than the whole group, diapering area away from food service/preparation
- for older toddlers and preschoolers, rooms divided into learning centers with areas for both quiet and active play
- materials and time provided for children to select their own activities to explore during the day
- ask about credentials of the director and staff. Do they have early childhood education and training? Is their training ongoing? Are some staff certified in CPR and First Aid? Have staff been trained in administering medication?
- supervised staff
- licensed centers are required to have all their staff fingerprinted and cleared through the NYS Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment
- licensed programs are required to follow the adult/child ratios listed below. All programs should consider these ratios as the minimum standard:

Age Of Children	Group Size								
	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	21	24
6 wks. to 18 mo.	1:4	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
18 wks. to 36 mo.	1:5	1:5	1:4	x	x	x	x	x	x
3 years	1:7	1:7	1:7	1:7	1:6	1:6	x	x	x
4 years	1:8	1:8	1:8	1:8	1:8	1:7	1:7	1:7	x
5 years	1:9	1:9	1:9	1:9	1:9	1:9	1:8	1:8	1:8