Questions to Ask Potential Child Care Providers

**Interview Questions:**
- Do you have any openings?
- Do you have a waiting list?
- What are your hours?
- How long have you been working with children?
- What is the average group size?
- How many children are full-time? How many are part-time?
- What are your fees and what does that include?
- When do you expect payment?
- Are there any additional fees?
- Do you offer a sliding fee scale?
- Does anyone in the home smoke?
- Do you have any pets?
- When can I come and visit? (Make sure you verify the address and get directions)
- Do you have a website to visit?

**Visit Questions for Family Child Care Providers:**
- Tell me about yourself.
- Why did you decide to become a child care provider?
- What experience/training have you had with children?
- May I see a copy of your certificate or license?
- How long are you planning to provide child care?
- Do you have substitute or back-up care available?
- Can I visit at anytime?
- What is your policy about vacation, sick and holiday time?
- Who else is in the home when the children are here?
- Do you transport the children and do you have a valid driver's license?
- What happens if my child gets sick or hurt?
- Can you describe a typical day my child would have here?
- Do you post a schedule of activities/meals/snacks?
- Where do the children nap?
- What do you do in emergency situations?
- Do you have a current First Aid and/or CPR certificate?
- How do you handle discipline?
- Do you have any house rules?
- What would you do if we disagree about something?
- Can I see a copy of your contract and policies?
- Can I speak with the parents who are currently using your care?
- Can I speak with the parents who have used your care in the past?
- Do you participate in YoungStar?
- What is your YoungStar rating?

**Visit Questions for Group Centers:**
- Do you have any openings?
- What are your hours?
- What is the daily/weekly fee?
- Do you also provide part-time care?
- Are there days that your center is closed?
- Is there a fee for days that you are closed?
- Will I be charged for days when my child is absent?
- Are there any additional fees for registration, field trips, late payment?
- Do you offer a multi-child or family discount?
- Are meals provided?
- What is the capacity of the center?
- How many children would be in my child’s group?
- How many teachers would be in my child’s group?
- How many different adults would be with my child throughout the day?
- What can you tell me about you and your staff’s education and experience?
- What type of training does the center staff receive annually?
- What is your staff turnover rate?
- What would a typical day be like for my child?
- What is the center’s discipline policy?
- What are your policies regarding ill children?
- How is administering of medications documented?
- What precautions are taken about who picks up my child?
- How are accidents documented?
- What violations have you had in the past year?
- Are daily activities documented through lesson plans or daily notes?
- Could you give me the names of two or three parents to call for references?
- Do you conduct regular parent teacher conferences?
- Are you participating in YoungStar?
- What is your YoungStar rating?