



Jelly Bean Junction - 3115 New York Ave, Melbourne, FL 32934 - (321) 242-2011

Bring this checklist with you when you visit the establishment and take notes if necessary.

**1. How Qualified is the Center?**

Is the Childcare center an accredited "Gold Seal" center, nationally recognized for excellence in providing a quality early learning experience? Contact **FACCM**, the Florida Association for Child Care Management the largest pre-school accrediting body in Florida and verify your center is a member in good standing.

<http://www.faccm.org>

Contact your state's childcare licensing agency and get a copy of the center or family childcare regulations.

**2. How long has the Center been in the Community?**

Make sure the day care center has been in business for several years, and has references, positive reviews and the necessary licenses. Read the current parents' reviews for the provider, and always follow up on any references the center offers.

**3. How safe is the Center?**

Are sleeping areas clean and clear of potential distractions and hazards? Is a staff member with certified pediatric first aid training always present with each group of children? These are some of the things to keep an eye on when you visit a potential day care.

Look for teachers who are CPR certified and receive regular training. Be sure to ask about policies for bringing labeled food, diapers and bottles/sippy cups.

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4. **What Happens if Your Child is Sick?**

Are children asked to stay home if they're sick? Will you be charged for days you need to keep your little one at home? It definitely turns into a bargain in most sick policy cases:.

5. **What is the Staff-to-Child Ratio?**

Ask right away if there is space available to care for your child. The smaller the number is means more one-on-one care for your child. Another sign of a good fit is if the provider specializes in your child's age group.

6. **What is the Curriculum and Parenting Style?**

Because the day care will take your place as caregiver when you're gone, it is imperative it enforces your basic rules in child development. Does it follow a similar feeding and sleeping schedule?

"Additionally, look to make sure that the program has activities and learning goals to support all areas of children's development--are there opportunities for active physical play and movement as well as more quiet activities?

7. **What is the Transportation Situation?**

If the childcare provider uses a shuttle service to transport children, make sure its vehicles are properly certified and knowledgeable professionals follow safety procedures strictly. If the center doesn't offer you the opportunity to inspect vehicles, ask for it. You may find surprising answers in the mess -- or lack thereof -- inside that tells you about how the providers operate when parents aren't watching.

8. **What is the Visitation Policy?**

Look for a center that offers an open door policy for parental visits. Some might ask that you refrain during naptime, which is typically fair, but you should never have to schedule an appointment to visit the people caring for your little one.

Armed with these questions, you should be prepared to find the perfect day care situation for your child. But the question is: Will *you* be able to handle the first day?