



Brighter
Futures
INDIANA

Child Care Program Health & Safety Checklist

In Indiana, there are many kinds of [child care programs](#). Some programs may operate in large centers with many classrooms, while others may take place in someone's home or within a church or faith-based location. Regardless of which you choose for your family, your child should be healthy and safe throughout the day.

As you visit a new program or send your child to their current program, here are the essential questions you should ask and items to keep in mind focused on child health and safety. **The answers to all questions should be YES:**

Now, take a moment to review your checklist to determine if this child care program meets the basic health and safety requirements. If you need help finding other child care programs or for more information visit brighterfuturesindiana.org/blog/how-to-find-high-quality-child-care-in-indiana.

CLASS & GROUP SIZES

Are there enough adults in the room to carefully watch each child?
Are caregivers paying individual attention to each child?

SAFE SLEEP

Are all children watched and monitored during nap times?
Is there a separate crib for each infant?
At nap time, are infants placed alone on their backs in a crib cleared of all other items?
Do older children have a quiet place to rest or nap?

SECURITY

Are main entrances locked and are internal stairways and doorways safeguarded to prevent wandering children?
Are children accompanied by an adult and actively supervised while playing outside?
Do child-accessible electrical outlets have covers, safety plugs or are tamper-resistant and labeled as such?
Do caregivers have medicines labeled and out of children's reach?
Are cleaning supplies, other poisonous materials and dangerous items locked up, out of children's reach?

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Are there clear procedures for taking care of children during an emergency?
Is contact information for police, fire, poison control and local hospitals posted and accessible to all caregivers?
Are caregivers trained in first aid, CPR and safe sleep?
Is there a fully stocked first-aid kit available and accessible to adults, but out of children's reach?

CLEANING, SANITIZING & HAND WASHING

Are caregivers cleaning infants and toddlers promptly when diapers or clothing are wet or soiled?
Are soiled diapers discarded sanitarly?
Are caregivers cleaning diaper-changing surfaces and disinfecting them after each use?
Are adults and children washing their hands before handling food and when changing diapers or helping children use the restroom?
Is the environment clean and are toys and shared materials sanitized often?

DEVELOPMENT & WELL-BEING

Are caregivers warm, welcoming, nurturing, affectionate, patient and good-natured?
Are caregivers talking with children at eye level, engaging them in conversations and asking questions when appropriate?
Are caregivers handling discipline in a calm, consistent way to encourage positive behavior?
If the program provides food service, do meals and snacks contain a variety of food groups?
Are books, pictures, toys and other materials age-appropriate?