

## **FCC Childcare Selection Checklist**

Finding quality childcare can be a challenge. The following checklist, although not inclusive, is provided to help guide you in selecting a Family Child Care Provider that meets your children's needs. If you should need assistance, have questions or concerns, or would like to become a provider yourself, please do not hesitate to call the Family Child Care Office at 402-294-9016.

- Interview several providers – start the interview process in advance of need
- Ask for references – whenever possible, contact parents who are using the provider now and parents of those children who are no longer in care. Don't be afraid to ask questions about the care provided in the home.
- Find out if the home is licensed - the Support Group Commander has licensed all licensed homes on the installation and have the Family Child Care logo displayed in their front window.
- Ask about provider backup availability in the event the provider is unable to provide care for your child.
- Spend as much time as possible with the provider to see if his/her attitudes regarding child-rearing practices are compatible with your own.
- Let the provider interact with your child - not all providers and children get along. Parents should try to select a care provider with whom your child feels at ease with. Does the provider respond and talk to all children in a positive, warm and understanding way?
- Ask very specific questions about the provider's discipline techniques – Family Child Care providers are prohibited from using corporal punishment even with parental permission.
- Clarify your needs and expectations – be sure you and the provider understand all that is expected from the child care arrangement. Do the program philosophies and values coincide with your own?
- Review the provider contract prior to signing.
- Ask about flexibility of provider's hours – Be sure you know if the provider you select to care for your child will be available to provide care in the event your duty schedule changes unexpectedly.
- Look for evidence of good hygiene and sanitary conditions – all licensed homes are inspected monthly. Ask to review the provider's last home inspection or drop by the Family Child Care office for information.
- Review activity plans – do the activities planned for the children offer a balance of inside/outside and child/teacher initiated activities?
- If the provider you have interviewed turns out to be all wrong for you or your child – find someone else.