Daycare Interview Questions for Parents

I. General Information

1. What is the history and philosophy of the daycare?
   a. Understand the daycare's mission, values, and educational philosophy.
2. What are the qualifications and experience of the staff?
   a. Ensure that caregivers are qualified and experienced in early childhood education.
3. Can you provide references from other parents?
   a. References can offer real insights into the daycare's operations and quality.

II. Health & Safety

1. What are the safety and emergency procedures?
   a. Inquire about safety protocols, emergency plans, and staff training in first aid and CPR.
2. How do you handle medical emergencies or illnesses?
   a. Understand their policies for handling sick children and medical emergencies.
3. What are the health and hygiene practices?
   a. Ask about cleaning routines, diaper changing procedures, and illness prevention measures. Tip – Be sure to ask how often they sanitize toys.

III. Environment

1. Can I have a tour of the facility?
   a. A tour can provide insights into the cleanliness, space, and overall environment.
2. What kind of meals and snacks are provided?
   a. Ensure that the food is nutritious and inquire about how they handle allergies.
3. How do you accommodate children with special needs?
   a. Understand their approach and resources for children with diverse needs.

IV. Curriculum & Activities

1. What is a typical day like?
   a. Get an idea of the daily routine, activities, and balance between structured and free play. Make sure their idea of balance is in line with yours.
2. How do you support early literacy and numeracy?
   a. Inquire about their educational approach, especially in areas like reading and math readiness.
3. What kind of outdoor or physical activities are offered?
   a. Physical activity is crucial for young children, so ask about their facilities and routines.

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V. Communication & Parent Involvement

1. How is communication handled between staff and parents?
   a. Understand the frequency and methods of communication, like apps, emails, or meetings.
2. Are there opportunities for parent involvement?
   a. Ask about ways parents can get involved or participate in the daycare community.
3. How do you handle behavioral issues and discipline?
   a. It's important to know their approach to discipline and how they manage challenging behaviors.

VI. Transition & Adaptation

1. How do you help children adapt to the daycare setting?
   a. Understand their strategies for easing the transition for new children.
2. What is the process for transitioning to different age groups within the daycare?
   a. Know how they manage transitions as children grow and their needs change.

VII. Licensing & Accreditation

1. Is the daycare licensed and accredited?
   a. Confirm that the daycare meets state licensing requirements and any additional accreditations.

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Must Haves

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Wants

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Deal Breakers

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Daycare Interview Questions for Parents

Thank you for downloading this list of daycare interview questions. I've been working in education for over 15 years, and now I am sharing my experience with you.

If you've made it this far, here are some bonus tips:

- Think about what your ideal is before you do anything else.
    - Make a list of must-haves, wants, and do not wants. Is distance important? Academics? Play time? Do you prefer something more structured or something more free?
- Visit local groups online to see what your local facilities offer.
    - Is at-home daycare popular?
    - Are there co-ops in your area?
    - Is there a super cool outdoor daycare in the area or a daycare known for academics?
- Look around for recommendations.
    - This can be from online forums or word of mouth.
- Check your state authority for daycare/childcare citations.
    - Most states post infractions online for the public.

If you liked this post, be sure to check out additional content on my blog, TheWearyEducator.com.

Thanks again!

Valerie :)