

CHOOSING THE BEST CARE FOR YOUR INFANT



KIDS FIRST

CHILDCARE RESOURCE CENTER

When choosing an infant program you'll want to see:

- Adults who hold, rock, coo, sing to, repeat sounds and cuddle infants individually.
- Adults who hold infants individually while feeding.
- Cribs for each infant.
- Soft, safe surfaces for crawling, rolling, creeping and pulling up.
- Caregivers who sing, talk to and play with infants during routine care and who explain what is happening.
- Adults who respond quickly and sympathetically to crying.
- Individual sleeping and feeding schedules.
- Adults who respect individual infant's temperaments and tolerances for sounds and activities.
- Infants being taken outdoors for walks and fresh air.
- A variety of safe, washable toys that respond to infants' actions, such as bells, rattles, and busy boxes.
- Adults who encourage infants to develop independence.
- Mirrors, photos of infants and their families and pictures displayed at babies eye level, near the floor, changing table or crib.
- Strict precautions taken to prevent the spread of disease such as hand washing, refrigeration of formula and food, disinfecting of toys, diapering surfaces and feeding areas.

You'll want to question when you see:

- Diapers that are changed infrequently or only on a strict schedule.
- Babies who are left in cribs, playpens, swings, or infant seats for prolonged periods of time.
- Frequent changes of caregivers throughout the day, or frequent staff turnover.
- Staff who appear cold or detached, as if caring for infants is a chore.
- Infants who are left unattended.