

# Choosing Quality Child Care

One of the most important decisions a parent/guardian will make is choosing a child care program for your child's participation. Research indicates that high quality child care increases a child's readiness to learn. The following items need to be considered when choosing quality child care:

## Environment

- Posted licence under the Provincial Day Nurseries Act.
- Children and staff are observed to be happy.
- Open door policy which invites you to visit at any time.
- A bright and cheerful environment.
- Children with special needs are fully involved in the program.
- The program includes a diversity of ethnic backgrounds and cultures both in children and staff.

## Activities/ Programs/ Routines

- A variety of educational learning materials and furnishings that are safe, clean and developmentally-appropriate.
- Developmentally-appropriate posted program plans and routines.
- Posted healthy menu plan following Canada's Food Guide.

## Staff

- Staff are trained Early Childhood Educators who have received a diploma from an Ontario College of Applied Arts and Technology or equivalent.
- Staff regularly evaluate the program and determine children's developmental strengths and needs.
- Staff have participated in "Quality Child Care Niagara" training.



## **Policies/ Regulations**

- The Program provides written policies and consistent practices for things such as hours of operation, emergency contacts, program costs, and behaviour management practices.

## **Parents**

- Regular program feedback opportunities such as parent surveys are available.
- Opportunities for participation in the program.
- Opportunities to speak to other parents about the program.

