Family Child Care: Checking References

While an interview can leave you with a good first impression, you should never choose a family child care provider without checking his or her references. It is important to speak to other parents or professionals who have seen the provider work with children. Below is a list of questions to help you get started.

| Name of Provider: ___________________________ | Phone Number: ___________________________ |
| Name of Reference: ___________________________ |                                           |

* How long have you known the provider? Are your children currently in this provider’s care? If not, why?

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* What made you choose this provider? _______________________________________________________

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* How many of your children did the provider care for? What ages? ____________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

* How did the provider communicate with you about your children? (notes, conversation, meetings) Did you need to ask for information, or did she offer it freely?

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* What are the strengths of the provider? ______________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

* What are the weaknesses of the provider? _____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

* If there was one thing you could change about the provider, what would it be? ______________________________

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* How do your children feel about the provider? ________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

* Were there other adults (or pets) in the house while your children were there? How did they interact with your children?

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* How did your child spend his/her day with the provider? __________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

* What did the provider do when your child misbehaved? What was her approach to discipline?

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* Did the provider have to handle any emergencies? If yes, please explain. Did she ever discuss her policies concerning emergencies with you?

_____________________________________________________________________________________

* Did you ever have concerns about the care your children received from this provider? Please share your concerns and how they were addressed.

_____________________________________________________________________________________

* Would you choose this provider again? Why or why not? ________________________________________