

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: _____

Name of Reference: _____ Phone Number: _____

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

- * What made you choose this provider? _____
- * 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?

- * 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? _____

- * 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?

- * 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?

- * 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? _____