

DAYCARE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Provided for you by *RealWorkingMom.com*

Questions denoted with an asterisk (*) are generally most appropriate for home daycare interviews. The rest are suitable for home or center interviews.

1. What are your hours?
2. What are your fees?
3. Do you charge for days my child is absent due to illness or vacation?
4. Do you have paid holidays? If so what ones?
5. Do you have paid sick days? If so how many? How many days were you unable to provide care last year due to illness?*
6. Do you have paid vacations? How many days per year?*
7. Do you have a sub when you are not able to provide care, or am I expected to arrange for substitute care?*
8. How many years have you been a licensed provider?*
9. Are you (or your employees) certified in CPR and First Aid?
10. What other continuing education classes have you (or your employees) taken in the past year or two?
11. When you use a helper, who is your helper and what are his/her responsibilities? What is that person's relationship to you?*
12. Do you ever leave your helper alone with the children?*
13. How many children do you have on a regular basis?
14. What are their ages?
15. Can you tell me what a typical day is in your daycare home/center?
16. Can you show me where the children play during the day?
17. Do the infants play in the same area?
18. If so, how are they kept safe from toys meant for older children?
19. How often and how much time are infants in playpens, walkers, or infant seats?
20. Do you schedule an infants feedings or do you feed on demand?
21. Do you hold infants when you feed them or do you prop bottles?
22. Do you ever put an infant to bed with a bottle?
23. How often do you change infants? Do you have some sort of schedule for this?
24. Who is allowed to hold infants and toddlers?
25. Where does an infant spend most of his/her day?
26. Do you take the children outside? When and how often? Do you use sunscreen? Do we supply?
27. How are the infants and other children supervised? (Both indoors and out)
28. What are you illness policies?
29. Under what circumstances do you call parents when their child becomes ill or injured?
30. May I have a list of references? Do these include both past and present clients?
31. Do you have a preschool program? Tell me about a typical preschoolers day.
32. What sort of structured activities do you have for the children?

33. How much free play time do the children have during a typical day?
34. How much TV do the children watch while at your home/center?
35. What programs do they watch?
36. Do you have an upper age limit at which children attend your daycare?
37. How often do you use a substitute?*
38. Do you let your families know when a substitute will be at your home?*
39. Who do you use for a substitute?*
40. What is your plan in case of a personal emergency?*
41. Do you practice regular fire and storm drills? What is your fire drill and storm plan?
42. How often do you read to the children?
43. Do you mind if parents stop by occasionally without notice during your regular hours when their child is in your care?
44. Where is your diaper changing area? May I see it? What do you use to sanitize it?
45. When and where do children nap?
46. What is your nap policy?
47. Where will my child sleep? May I see the room and crib or playpen?
48. How do you lay infants down when you put them to bed? Do you put blankets or toys in bed with the infant?
49. May I visit your daycare during business hours before I decide to bring my child, just to see what it is like and to meet the children?
50. Do you ever transport the children in a motor vehicle? If so, when? How are they secured in the vehicle?
51. Do you go on field trips? Where, when, and how are the kids supervised on these?
52. Where do the children play outdoors? May I see this area?
53. Do you have any pets? Where are they kept? Have they bitten or scratched any child in the past year? Where do you keep their food, water, litter box?*
54. Has any child been injured while at your daycare in the past year where they required medical attention?
55. If there are stairs, ask about gates and how they are secured.
56. If you might want to nurse during the day, ask if that would be possible.
57. Do I furnish baby care products or do you supply (baby wipes, diaper ointment, bottles, bibs)?
58. When and how do you toilet train? What do you do when a child has an accident during the day?
59. When and how do you discipline?
60. Values are important to us. What values are important to you?
61. Do you pray in your daycare or discuss faith (like at Christmas, Chanukah, etc.)?
62. Are there any other people (and relationship, ie husband, boyfriend, child) who are around the daycare children and would interact or discipline in any way?*
63. If married, be sure to ask to meet spouse.*
64. Can we see a copy of your contract?
64. Do you provide any meals or snacks? What ones?
65. Please provide menus for the last couple days' meals.