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East End Office (631)-283-1838-Call for hours

Choosing a Program for Your 2-5 Year Old Child

Name of Program _____

The Program

Children are taken outside each day to play	Yes No
There are a number of sensory play areas such as blocks, dramatic play, creative art, quiet book area, puzzles, table games, water & sand tables and play dough	Yes No
Children spend much of their time engaging in "hands-on" activities of their choice	Yes No
Children engage in art activities freely, making their own choices of materials and colors, rather than using dittos or following directions to make patterned crafts and projects	Yes No
Children are developing their language abilities through conversation, looking at books, dictating stories, being read to, etc, rather than through dittos, flash cards or alphabet drill	Yes No
Children are developing their perceptual skills by playing with blocks, pegs and puzzles	Yes No
Boys & girls are equally encouraged to participate in various activities	Yes No
Children are encouraged to express themselves freely, and use words to resolve conflicts with other children	Yes No
Program has books, pictures, foods, dolls and other materials that celebrate ethnic and cultural diversity	Yes No
Activities are designed with the understanding that children have different levels of ability, development and learning styles	Yes No

The Staff

Experienced with the care of young children	Yes No
Shows respect for the children and handles discipline in a calm, consistent way in order to encourage positive behavior	Yes No
Responds promptly to children's communications	Yes No
Nurturing and affectionate, patient and good natured with the children	Yes No

Health & Safety

Floors are clean, stairs and doorways are protected with locked gates. Soft surfaces for sitting and lying on are available	Yes No
Children are protected from power sources in all rooms. All electrical outlets are covered, all wires are out of reach	Yes No
Children have many opportunities to be physically active	Yes No
Children who are present for a full day are served appropriate meals & offered a naptime	Yes No
All breakable, sharp or potential choking hazards are out of reach. Poison, medicine and firearms are in locked cabinets	Yes No
There are no dangling curtain or blind cords that cause choking hazards	Yes No

If children are enrolled more than 3 hours per day the program must be licensed by the New York State Department of Social Services.

If there is a first grade, it must be licensed by the New York State Department of Education.

Minimum required staff/child ratios for licensed programs:
(unlicensed programs have no requirements, other than local town ordinances)

Age of Child	Staff / Child	Max. Group Size
2 years	1:5	12
3 years	1:7	18
4 years	1:8	21
5 years	1:9	24

Protecting children is everyone's job.

If you have a concern about a child care program, call the Long Island Regional Office of Children and Family Services at 631-342-7100