

## Key Indicators of Quality Child Care

- ❖ **Adult to Child Ratio and Group Size**: Ask how many children there are for each adult. The fewer the children for each adult, the better for your child. You want your child to get plenty of attention. The younger your child, the more important this is. Find out how many children are in the group. The smaller the group, the better. In Massachusetts, the Department of Early Education and Care is the licensing agency that regulates the maximum group size and ratio's for licensed providers.
- ❖ **Caregiver Qualifications**: Ask about the caregivers' training and education. Caregivers with degrees and/or special training in working with children will be better able to help your child learn. Are the caregivers involved in activities to improve their skills? Do they attend classes and workshops?
- ❖ **Turnover**: Check how long caregivers have been at the center or providing care in their homes. It's best if children stay with the same caregiver at least a year. Caregivers who come and go make it hard on your child. Getting used to new caregivers takes time and energy that could be spent on learning new things.
- ❖ **Accreditation**: This is a national, voluntary system to measure the quality of child care programs. Accreditation standards are often higher than state licensing regulations. Asking programs about whether they are accredited or if they have ever worked toward being accredited is one more way to learn about the program's quality.