QUALITY CHILD CARE CHECKLIST:

What to look for in a quality child care program
When visiting a program, ask these questions.
Your answers to these questions should be “yes.”

Facility:
____ Is the provider certified by the Department of Human Services and is it posted?
____ Does the provider participate in Keystone STARS?
____ Are there appropriate toys and materials for children of all age groups?
____ Does the provider encourage you to drop in and visit at any time?

Staff:
____ Does staff communicate daily with parents about their child’s progress?
____ Does staffing allow for each child to receive individual attention?
____ Does staff sit and read to the children?
____ Does staff seem patient and receptive to children’s needs?
____ Is staff respectful of children?
____ Is staff respectful of parents?
____ Does staff encourage children’s sharing, manners, and other good behaviors?
____ Does staff appear lively, smiling and interacting in a positive manner with the children?
____ Does staff involve children in daily learning activities?

Safety:
____ Does the facility appear orderly and clean?
____ Are hazardous materials locked away?
____ Is there an emergency plan and is it posted?
____ Are there security measures in place?
____ Is there a policy for sick children and other circumstances?

Children:
____ Do the children have a consistent routine that they can understand and follow?
____ Do the children seem occupied and engaged?
____ Are the children involved in activities that promote learning?
____ Is there a policy on discipline?
____ Do the children seem happy?

Feelings:
____ Is your initial reaction upon entering the site a positive one?
____ Is this a place my child would enjoy?
____ Would my child be safe here?
____ Would I/we feel comfortable using this program?
____ Would my child learn new things every day at this program?