

INTERVIEWING A CHILD CARE PROVIDER

PLAY

- What activities do you enjoy the most with infants or toddlers?
- What learning activities do you do with young children?
- How would you plan a day with my child? (Encourage the caregiver to give details.)
- How much time would you spend outdoors with my child? Where would you go? What would you do?
- If you had to buy three toys for an infant or toddler, what would they be? Why would you choose them?

HEALTH, NUTRITION & SAFETY

- Under what circumstances would you call me at work?
- One of my biggest fears is ... (my child falls off the slide, chokes, stops breathing, other). What would you do if this happened? How can you prevent it from happening?
- What would you do if my child became ill suddenly or were injured?
- What precautions do you take to prevent illness?
- How would you introduce new food to my infant?
- What would you serve my toddler for lunch?
- How do you settle a child who refuses to sleep? What if nothing works?

EMOTIONAL CARE & CHILD MANAGEMENT

- How do you give a child a bottle?
- How and when do you toilet train a child?
- How do you deal with a child who cries for a half hour after his/her parent(s) leave(s)?
- What would you do if a child refuses to eat? Puts his/her bowl on his/her head? Eats with his/her fingers? Throws food?
- What would you do if a child hits you?
- What methods of discipline do you find work best with an infant or toddler?
- What kinds of behaviour do you consistently set limits on?
- Think of other children you have cared for. What behaviour irritated you the most? How did you deal with it?
- How do you handle a child who whines? Bites? Has temper tantrums?
- How do you make a child feel good about himself/herself?

PERSONAL SUITABILITY

- What do you like about care giving?
- What child care situations have you worked with? What did you like best about these situations? Least? How did you deal with it?
- What are your reasons for leaving your present job? (Check his/her answer with his/her references.)
- What are your interests and hobbies?
- How do your family/friends feel about your work?
- What do you see yourself doing three years from now?
- What are your expectations of parents?
- What kind of formal education do you have?
- How long do you plan to stay in this field?
- How long will you be willing to stay in this job?

CONCLUSION

- Do you have any questions?
- May I have the name of two current or former parents whose children you have cared for as references?
- May I have the name of a character reference?

RESOURCES

- For a safety checklist please refer to the Children's Safety Association of Canada website: www.safekid.org
- For information on Childcare Licensing Standards, please refer to the Ontario Ministry of Education website: www.ontario.ca/page/child-care-rules-child-care-and-early-years-act#section-2
- The FCO library has a section on child care that includes handbooks and guides that can aid in the process of choosing a child care provider. Visit the library directly for more details!

For more information on childcare options, financial assistance, and parenting resources, please contact the Family Care Office.
416.978.0951 www.familycare.utoronto.ca

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