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 you 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 Child Safe Canada website: childsaferCanada.com
• The FCO library has a section on child care that includes handbooks and guides that can aide 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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