

## EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE CENTRE CHECKLIST

Choosing the best program for your child is an exciting and important decision that will set the stage for the first five years of your little one's development.

### CHILDCARE AND EARLY EDUCATION

Ontario childcare centres are regulated facilities that provide daily childcare for children, and are licensed under the *Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA)*. The CCEYA sets standards for educator qualifications, safety, health, nutrition, educator to child ratios, and equipment requirements just to name a few.


While all licensed childcare centres are regulated by the Ministry of Education and assessed based on the standards within the Act, all childcare centres are not of equal quality. Some childcare centres work to meet the bare minimum standards in order to pass licensing requirements.

But Laugh & Learn ELCC is more than just a childcare centre. We believe in our children, and know that they are full of potential. We understand that the early years of a child's life are critical to the development of their personality, intellect, and resilience. We aim to build strong minded, confident, and healthy citizens. Because our educators and the centre are the vessels in which we choose to form this vision, Laugh & Learn ELCC intends to consistently exceed the standards set out in the CCEYA.

Once you have identified your childcare needs, you must decide which Centre and program is the best fit for your family, and most importantly your child. The following checklist seeks to provide you with the tools to make the best decision possible.

### HEALTH & SAFETY

Childcare centres should have environments that offer safety, consistency, and progressive support for independence.

		Yes	No
Are emergency procedures and evacuation routes established?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are health care and sanitization policies employed? Including hand washing, diapering, food preparation, and the handling of food allergies?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are health guidelines and emergency phone numbers posted clearly on information boards?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are immunizations for educators, employees, and children required?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are nutritious foods and beverages provided on a daily basis, including two snacks and a hot lunch?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are the environments arranged to encourage optimal visual supervision?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are there safe and secure arrival and departure procedures?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do educator – to – child ratios meet Ministry requirements?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do educators have the required training and certification in CPR and Level C First Aid?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Does the Centre have a secure entrance?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does the Ministry of Education license the Centre?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the Centre facility safe, clean, and well maintained?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is there a comprehensive parent handbook that explains and outlines Centre policies and procedures?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is there a place where a child can be isolated and supervised if they feel ill?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is there an open door policy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## PROGRAM & CURRICULUM

*"Through play and inquiry, young children practice ways of learning and interacting with the world around them that they will apply throughout their lives." – HDLH.*



Yes


No

	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are children provided with choices between individual and small group activities inside the classroom as well as outdoors?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are field trips and enrichment activities part of the program?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are learning materials safe, plentiful, and age-appropriate?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are self-help skills, such as dressing, toilet training, resting, washing and eating encouraged, as children are ready?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are the classrooms clean, bright, and well ventilated?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are there displays of what the children are doing and learning?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are there enrichment programs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are there specific learning centers visible in the classrooms?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do children appear to be happy and busily engaged in interesting and diverse activities?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does the classroom include children's artwork, writings, and stories?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does the program provide a consistent and structured routine the children can follow?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How will my child's goals be outlined and progress be documented and shared?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the curriculum and program appropriate for children at differing developmental levels?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is there a curriculum that is visually employed throughout the Centre?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Were you given a tour of the entire program? Infant Program Toddler Program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Preschool Program			
Will the curriculum prepare my child for school?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>


### PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS

*Professional educators are reflective, and consider their significance in the lives of children, and families.*

		Yes	No
Are the educators educated and experienced in early childhood education?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are ongoing training programs provided to teachers?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are the Supervisor, and educators responsive and open to your questions?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the atmosphere warm, loving, and responsive to families and children?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### COMMUNICATION & FAMILY RESOURCES

*Parents and families are the child's first educator. Parent and guardian communications should be evident within the program.*

		Yes	No
Are there clear communication methods for families? Weekly program plans? Monthly Calendars? Parent information bulletin boards? Website? Daily communication about my child's day?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are there resources offered to parents?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are parents given a comprehensive packet of information regarding the centre, faculty, curriculum, and classrooms?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is my child's educator willing to support continued learning at home?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>