

Advice for Parents wanting to ensure children are as safe as possible in child care



1. Check who owns the Centre

Look into the Centre's ownership. Not-for profit Centres or those owned by operators tend to be lower risk than corporate or private equity-owned Centres, which focus on profits.



2. Examine staff-to-child ratios

The more Educators per child, the safer the environment. Quality Centres exceed minimum ratios to provide better supervision & care.



3. Ask about staff turnover

Consistency is key. High staff turnover can indicate poor working conditions. A good Centre retains its staff, ensuring stability for children.



4. Look into staff qualifications

Higher qualifications generally mean higher quality care. Centres with more University-educated or Diploma-qualified Educators provide better early education.



5. Assess the use of casual staff

A well-run Centre has a small, stable pool of casual staff or enough permanent Educators to cover absences. High turnover can be a red flag.



6. Trust your instincts

If something doesn't feel right about a Centre or an Educator, trust your instincts. You know what is best for your child.



7. Don't be fooled by appearances

A beautifully designed Centre, doesn't always mean quality care. Some corporations invest more in aesthetics, than in staff and resources.



8. Check the Centre's rating

Services rated Excellent or Exceeding the National Quality Standard are ideal. If a Centre is only Meeting, ask what they're doing to improve.



9. Build relationships with Educators

Know the people caring for your child. While strong relationships build trust, be observant - paedophiles often groom adults as well as children.



10. Advocate for change

Join. The Parenthood and Campaign for better wages, funding, quality, regulation and greater provision of quality early childhood education & care.



11. Teach your child the correct names for body parts

Using accurate terminology, including for genitals, empowers children to report inappropriate touching or abuse clearly.



12. Believe your child

Don't ask leading questions, but if your child reports feeling unsafe or something concerning, believe them and take action.

What not to do....

1. Demand constant updates & pictures - this takes time away from Educators' primary role: caring & teaching children.
2. Panic - If your child is happy & secure at their Centre, trust that feeling. Many high-quality Child Care Services exist.