

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE HOME PROVIDER

1. Has your child been in care before?
2. If so, for how long? If not, who has been providing child care (parent, grandparent)?
3. What is your method of discipline?
4. How do you approach potty training?
5. Does your child have special needs on religious issues?
6. Does your child have any special needs on health issues?
7. What general observations can you give me about your child's development (when did he/she crawl? walk? say first word? Etc.)
8. Does your child dress him/herself?
9. What is your child's favorite activity?
10. Are there any food restrictions?
11. What are your expectations of a child care provider?
12. Are you available to participate in occasional day field trip?
13. Are you prepared to participate in occasional day care activities and special events/parties? (Not all of them, but as your schedule allows. I do require some involvement throughout the year.)
14. Are you willing to sign a contract?
15. Will you be giving two weeks notice to your former child care provider (or whatever is required in the former providers contract) If not, why not? Note: I don't accept a client if they do not honor their former obligation/contract – unless there is a special reason such as abuse. I do this to discourage parents from provider hopping.)
16. May I have two references? (I always ask that one of them be the former child care provider. In a sense, you are extending credit to parents and have right to check their references. I ask one to be sure they paid, checks cleared, account is current and paid in full. I also want to verify some of the above questions. If the answers are different, I want to find out why?)
17. Have you read my Parent Handbook and reviewed all policies listed? (If not, I always get back to them once it is read and make sure they don't have any questions about it.)

18. Is someone available to pick up your child by closing time?
19. Do you have a backup provider when your child is ill?
20. In the unlikely event of an emergency closing and back up is unavailable, do you have emergency back up care?
21. Are you in agreement with my payment policy, including late fees?
22. What is your greatest concern (if any) or question (if any) about placing your child in care outside the home? I always explain that I ask these next questions not to pry into their personal life but to get an idea of their child's background.
23. Does your child have any siblings? If so, ages?
24. Are parents married? Divorced? Widowed? If divorced, are there step parents involved any is everyone prepared to participate in the child care experience?
25. If parents are divorced, I ask for a copy of any paperwork regarding custody. I do this to avoid a question if one parent shows up for the child claiming it is "their turn/right". I don't want to be in the middle.
26. Has the child had or have any serious illness? If so, is he/she cleared by the doctor to participate in all activities? I make sure there is a note confirming this on the health paper when returned.
27. How do you think children learn? (Play? Academics? Combination?)
28. Are you in agreement with my curriculum?