

There are many checklists for what to look for in quality childcare. It is always good to find out about employee turnover rate, the teacher's education, and accreditation. However, a checklist and specific questions do not hold all the answers. You will want to set up an interview to get specific questions answered and to spend time in the environment with your child and the care providers. You may also want to drop by unexpectedly a few days later to see how things go when they aren't expecting potential clients. Also, when you visit a potential site it is important to use all your senses. How does the facility smell? Is it pleasing to the eye and well used yet clean? Are there welcoming places for children to have different kinds of play. When you hear caregivers interacting with the children is the conversation calm, positive, and caring? Does it look like a pleasant place to be for both the children and the care providers. The most important evaluator is your heart. How does it make feel? Can you see yourself as part of the program? Is it in line with many of your families values? It is also important to start looking for programs early. Many quality programs take applications and fill in February for the following September.

Some places to help you find childcare in Sonoma County:

**Community Childcare Council (4C'S)**  
(707) 544-3084 [www.sonoma4cs.org](http://www.sonoma4cs.org)  
Referrals to Licensed Childcare Facilitys

**Sonoma County Child Care Association**  
[www.sonomacountychildcareassociation.com](http://www.sonomacountychildcareassociation.com)  
[www.sccca.info](http://www.sccca.info)  
List of Associated Family Child Care Providers

**National Association for Family Child Care**  
[www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org)  
Lists Accredited Family Child Care Homes

**Northern California Waldorf Early Childhood Association**  
[www.waldorfpreschools.org](http://www.waldorfpreschools.org)  
List of Associated Providers with Waldorf Style Programs in Northern CA, Articles, and Reading list.