

CHILDCARE CONSIDERATIONS CHECKLIST

Finding quality childcare can be stressful and, in many cases, it's pivotal to your family being able to settle into life in your new community. Often, childcare needs to be secured immediately, especially for dual service couples or spouses seeking employment.

Deciding who will care for your little one(s) is challenging, emotional and in many locations it's also expensive. It can still be a fantastic experience though – one that helps your child(ren) settle and make friends, one that builds a familiar routine and one that gives the grown-ups some breathing room.

Here's a list of topics to consider before deciding on a childcare option:

- Define your requirements:
 - Close to home?*
 - Close to work?*
 - What time do they open?*
 - What time do they close?*
 - Attached to school?*
 - When do you need the care for your child(ren)?*
- Research your options (the MFRC is a great place to start for help):
 - Licensed?*
 - Unlicensed?*
 - Home-based?*
- Visit potential facilities:
 - Does the facility "feel" right for you?*
 - Does the schedule work for your child(ren)?*
 - Will your child(ren) nap (if applicable)?*
 - Do the hours of operation work for your family schedule?*
 - How is the location?*
 - What services are included (lunch, snacks, etc.)?*
 - What are the fees?*
 - What is their payment schedule?*
 - Do you pay for days you will not use?*
 - What is the policy for sick children?*
 - What is the policy for sick caregivers?*
- Talk to current and previous parents to understand their experience:
 - What do they love about the childcare provider?*
 - What do they wish were done differently?*
 - Are their children happy?*
 - Do they have any recommendations for you?*
- Review your family budget and take the cost of your childcare facilities into consideration.
- Short list your childcare options.
- Make your selection and have a back-up in mind just in case your first option is full.
- Pack Kleenex in the car for the first day of drop-off, just in case you cry. 😊