Checklist Moments

Video Transcript

[Music]

A father and mother walk in a parking lot holding hands with their child.

Narrator: Quality early care and education builds a strong foundation for your child's future.

A Program Director welcomes the family into an early childhood classroom.

Narrator: That's why it's so important to look for key elements of quality when choosing a child care program.

Children playing with play dough, a Maryland State Department of Education Child Care license, a Maryland EXCELS Quality Rating 5 certificate.

Narrator: First, check if the program is licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care and also participating in Maryland EXCELS.

Teachers interact with playing children.

Narrator: Maryland EXCELS programs go above and beyond basic safety requirements by showing their commitment to providing high-quality care.

Maryland EXCELS Quality Rating 5 badge displayed on a window.

Narrator: Look for our quality rating badges when you visit a program to see if it's part of Maryland EXCELS.

Child playing with play dough, Program Director and parents walking outside with checklist:
   1. **Play**
   2. **Philosophy**
   3. **Activities and lessons**
   4. **Indoor and outdoor environments**
   5. **Cultures and languages.**

Narrator: When visiting a potential child care program you're interested in, be on the lookout for these important things.

Teacher helping a child put on a coat with checkbox and caption: "Do the children look happy and are the teachers engaging in play?"

Narrator: See if the children and staff are happy and how teachers engage with the children.

Staff pointing to mission statement and daily schedule chart with checkbox and caption: "Did the provider explain their philosophy about caring for my child and do I agree with it?"

Narrator: Ask if the program has a philosophy or mission statement and if they follow a daily schedule.

Teacher engaging with playing children with checkbox and caption: "Are activities and lessons age appropriate? For example, can my 12-year-old experiment with art materials or are projects expected to be perfect?"

Narrator: Find out if the program uses a developmentally and age-appropriate curriculum.

Books representing different cultures. Teacher engaging with child wearing culturally-inspired clothing with checkbox and caption: "Does the program reflect my culture, language and beliefs or show interest in learning about what is important to me?"

Narrator: Make sure the program reflects and respects your culture, language, and beliefs.

Children playing outdoors with checkbox and caption: "Are the indoor and outdoor spaces fully staffed, clean, organized, and safe?"

Narrator: Structured lessons are important, but play is a vital part of development, too! Check if children have daily opportunities to play in indoor and outdoor spaces that are clean, organized and safe.

Child walking with parents with footer containing the Maryland Statement Department of Education logo, MarylandEXCELS.org website address, Maryland EXCELS logo.

Narrator: Sending your child to a child care program can be hard, but you can be confident that by choosing a Maryland EXCELS quality-rated program, your child will learn and grow every day!

Maryland EXCELS website showing the Find a Program Directory.

Narrator: Go to MarylandEXCELS.org and use the Find a Program tool to locate a quality child care program near you.

Maryland Statement Department of Education logo, MarylandEXCELS.org website address, Maryland EXCELS logo.

Narrator: Brought to you by Maryland EXCELS and the Maryland State Department of Education.