

Child Care Centre Checklist

Use this checklist to find the best child care centre for your child.

Centre Name :



ACCESS & SECURITY

- Is parking convenient for drop-off and pick-up?
- Does the centre have security gates, a secure entry system and secure fencing?
- Was a centre employee there to greet you?
- Has the centre been assessed under the National Quality Framework? What was their rating?
- Are there staff trained in CPR and first aid on-site at all times?
- Do children and staff participate in regular safety drills?



RECORDS & COMMUNICATION

- Does the centre provide a daily record of your child's sleep, food/bottles, and nappy changes/toileting?
- Are regular updates provided on your child's participation and learning progress?
- Is there an app or online platform to facilitate easy communication between parents and educators?
- Are there regular opportunities for parents to discuss their child's development and learning milestones with educators?

The Affinity Education Difference:

At Affinity Education, the safety and security of every child is our highest priority. As a purpose-driven organisation, we're committed to giving children the best start in life, beginning with a safe, secure, and nurturing environment where they feel loved and supported.



Learning & Curriculum

- Does the centre offer the play-based Lifelong Learning Curriculum?
- Is the curriculum tailored to your child's age and developmental stage using proven research?
- Does the curriculum focus on developing children's social connectivity, emotional confidence, physical health and wellbeing and foundational learning?
- Does the curriculum include a School Readiness program to help children transition smoothly into primary school?
- Does the curriculum introduce children to STEM learning, sparking curiosity and problem-solving skills?
- Does the curriculum teach children to care for Australian animals and the environment?
- Does the curriculum provide authentic First Nations education?
- Does the curriculum include an early intervention mental health program, like Positive Living Skills?



SLEEP & REST

- Is there a flexible rest or sleep schedule in place to ensure all children can rest as needed throughout the day?
- Is there a separate, supervised sleeping room for babies?
- Are there floor mats or toddler beds for older children's rest time?
- Are safe sleep practices followed, and are babies and children monitored while sleeping?



The Affinity Education Difference:

Affinity Education partners with the University of Wollongong to track school readiness in five key developmental areas, using the Early Years Toolbox to personalise learning for every child. Data shows children enrolled at Affinity Education centres excel in vocabulary, numeracy, and memory skills, with continuous improvement throughout the year thanks to tailored teaching.





FOOD & NUTRITION

- Is there an on-site qualified cook preparing fresh, healthy meals daily?
- Is a weekly menu displayed, and does it offer a variety of healthy, seasonal meals?
- Is breakfast, lunch, and morning and afternoon tea provided?
- Are water and healthy drinks available to children throughout the day?
- Is formula and bottles available for babies?
- Can breastmilk be stored and bottle-fed by educators?
- Are parents welcome to visit during the day to breastfeed?
- Can the centre cater to dietary requirements?
- Are there protocols in place for managing food allergies and preventing cross-contamination?



TOILETING & HYGIENE

- Are nappies and wipes provided?
- Are there scheduled nappy change times throughout the day?
- Does the centre support children who are toilet training?
- Are the toilets and sinks clean, child-friendly, and easy for children to use?



FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT

- Is the space clean, welcoming, and well-maintained?
- Are there age-appropriate indoor and outdoor play zones, with a variety of high-quality toys and learning materials?
- Does the outdoor area have plenty of shade?
- Are the indoor areas equipped with adequate cooling and heating?
- Is the centre inclusive, supporting diversity in all aspects?



EDUCATORS & TEAM

- Are the educators and staff friendly, approachable, and passionate about early learning?
- Is there a low staff turnover rate?
- Do educators have the qualifications and experience to support children's growth?
- Does the centre maintain or exceed the required child-to-educator ratio set by government standards?
- Does the centre offer a Stay & Play orientation program to help children adjust to child care?



PARENT ENGAGEMENT

- Are parents encouraged to be involved in centre events and activities?
- Does the centre have close connections to local schools?
- Does the centre support community groups and charities?



INITIAL IMPRESSIONS

- Did the centre feel relaxed, welcoming, and child-friendly during your visit?
- Can you hear the sounds of children playing and laughing?
- Were the educators and staff knowledgeable and passionate about their roles?
- Did the centre follow up with you after the tour to answer any questions?



The Affinity Education Difference:

At Affinity Education centres, over half of our team holds diplomas or higher, and all educators engage in advanced training and certifications through our Affinity Learning Academy. This ensures they stay current with the latest in early learning to provide the best education for your child.

