



# Questions to Ask Early Learning Professionals

To better understand the quality of care your child will receive, ask the early learning professional the following questions:

## Program Details

- What will a typical day for my child look like?
- Can you tell me about your curriculum and how it's reflected in your daily activities?
- What role does play have in your program? How is play incorporated into your daily schedule?
- Will there be family engagement events or opportunities? Can you tell me more about them?
- How does your program communicate with families (text message, phone call, email, newsletters, etc.)?

## Health and Safety

- What is your adult-to-child ratio for each age group?
- How will I be alerted if there is an emergency?
- What is your facility's Emergency Preparedness Plan?
- Are all staff at your program certified in pediatric CPR and first aid?
- Are all staff at your program required to complete a PA Child Abuse History Clearance, PA State Police Criminal Record Check, FBI Criminal History Background Check, and National Sex Offender Registry Clearance?

## Qualifications

- Is your program state certified?
- Is your facility Keystone STARS certified? If so, what is your STAR level?
- Can you tell me about the qualifications of your lead staff? What about additional classroom staff?
- How do you support your staff's professional development?
- What topics are staff regularly trained on or learning about?
- How often do your staff access professional development courses?
- How are you supporting your staff to pursue credentials, certifications, or a degree?

## Reflection

In addition to asking questions, parents and caregivers can benefit from personally reflecting on their visit to the early learning program. Take a few minutes to answer the following questions:

- What did you notice during your visit to the early learning program?
- Were caregivers playing with and talking to children at their level?
- Were caregivers using a warm tone and kind touch to engage with children?
- Were caregivers responsive rather than reactive?
- Was the facility clean and safe?
- Were toys and materials readily available for children to engage with?
- Trust your instincts. What is your gut telling you?