

*National
Organization of
Mothers
Of
Twins
Clubs, Inc.*

SUBJECT:

DAYCARE

RESEARCHER:

National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc

DATE:

October 1995 - February 1996

PURPOSE: The Purpose of this study was to determine the versatility of the various types of daycare programs.

METHOD: A questionnaire was printed in MOTC's Notebook and distributed in a National mailing. This survey was to be filled out by either parent who was informed about the children's daycare situation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

198 responses to this survey were received. 163 currently had their children in a daycare program.

RESULTS:

I. Utilization of Daycare

- A. The age of the respondents children when they began daycare: 0-3 months (28%); 4-7 months (18%); 8-12 months (11%); 1-2 years (23%); 2-3 years (15%); 3-4 years (12%); 4-5 years (<1%); after entering school (<1%).
- B. These respondents utilized daycare services: occasionally (<1%); 2 times per week (15%); 3 times per week (15%); Monday-Friday (61%).
- C. On an average day, these children were in daycare: all day (77%); mornings (11%); afternoons (<1%).

II. Services Offered

- A. 75% of the Centers offered discounts for families with more than one child.
- B. 72% of the Centers provided lunch and 95% provided snacks.

III. Center Qualifications

- A. 76% of the Centers were state-accredited, 78% were state-certified, a few were nationally accredited.
- B. 57% of the daycare teachers were certified by the state.
- C. 78% of the daycare teachers have an assistant.
- D. 28 respondents felt that there was too much staff turnover at their Center.
- E. 132 Centers had child-teacher ratios that varied with the age of the child, these were 3:1 (1%); 5:1 (37%); 10:1 (21%); other (28%).

IV. Safety, Security and Health

- A. Only 54 of the Centers initiate police checks on their employees.

- B. 53% of the Centers had either outside locked doors or a security system.
- C. 52% of the Centers had one person responsible for releasing the children to their parents.
- D. 94% of the Centers welcome parents to observe at any time.
- E. 186 respondents stated that their Center would notify them immediately in the event of an emergency.
- F. Only 23 Centers had a nurse on the premises.
- G. 75% of the Centers had a person certified in First Aid and CPR on the premises.

V. Educational

- A. 72% of the Centers grouped children by age.
- B. 67% of the Centers had chaperoned field trips, 92% had a playground, 93% offered arts and crafts, 88% had designated areas for certain types of play, (blocks, housekeeping), 89% set aside time for directed activities.
- C. 94% of the Centers had a quiet area for nap times.
- D. 86% of the respondents felt their children received enough individual attention.

CONCLUSION:

1. Daycare Centers should be either accredited/certified by their state and/or national review board/agency.
2. Daycare teachers should be certified and possess a Bachelors degree in education.
3. A quality Center will have an appropriate child-adult ratio. Although the legal ratios vary from state-to-state, generally acceptable ratios are: infants 3:1, 2-3 year-olds 5:1, 4-5 year-olds 8:1, Kindergarten 15:1.
4. There should be little to no staff turnover during a school year.
5. ALL Centers should conduct police background checks on ALL employees. These background checks will reveal criminal convictions for felonies, drug-offenses, and child-abuse-related offenses. Centers that do not conduct these background checks may put your child at risk.
6. Parents should be welcome to drop by or observe throughout the day.
7. All Centers should have a person certified in First Aid and CPR on site, ideally, there should be one teacher in each class who is certified.
8. A quality Center will provide clean, attractive indoor and outdoor play areas for children.
9. A quality Center will provide a variety of play and learning opportunities for children, including field trips, arts and crafts, designated play areas and directed activities.