

EARLY INTERVENTION

PARENT AND CAREGIVER'S GUIDE FOR CHOOSING AN INCLUSION PROGRAM

FIRST STEP: Make a Phone Call to the Program

Program Name _____ **Date** _____

Things to ask during the call:	Take Notes!
Where are you located?	
Are there openings for new children?	
What hours and days are you open?	
How much does care cost? Is financial assistance available?	
How many children are in your program? What age groups do you serve?	
Do you provide meals? (breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks)	
Do you accept children who are not potty trained?	
Have you or are you willing to provide adaptations for a child with special needs?	
May I schedule a visit?	

SECOND STEP: Visit the Program (observe and ask questions)

Things to look for during the visit:	Take Notes!
Warm, responsive, nurturing interactions between caregivers and children	
Children engaged happily in activities	
A clean, safe and healthy environment	
Adults speaking positively about all of the children	

A variety of toys and learning materials, such as books, puzzles, blocks that your child will find interesting; will contribute to their development	
Open space with clearly divided learning areas	
Children get individual attention	
Staff organizes the environment well to prevent behavior problems, staff models social-emotional skills	
An emergency plan posted	

Things to ask during the visit:	Take Notes!
Can I visit anytime?	
How do you handle discipline?	
What do you do if a child is sick?	
Do you have a substitute or back-up caregiver if you cannot be here?	
Do the children nap? If so, where?	
What education have you and your staff had? Do you participate in professional development?	
What kind of parent involvement do you have?	
What kind of experience do you have with children with disabilities?	
How do you communicate progress or concerns to parents?	
Ask if there is any more they would like to know about your child.	

Sources: NETAC (The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center)-Sept.2010; Delaware MAPS (Meaningful Access Participation & Supports)-Dec. 2010; PA Keys (A Parent's Guide to Choosing Quality Care)