Valley Oak Children’s Services

Choosing Child Care—5 Steps to Finding Care

1. **Be Informed**
   - Contact your local Resource and Referral agency.
     (www.rnnetwork.org under family service)
   - Contact your regional state CCL office which licenses child care (for compliant information).
   - Ask relatives, friends, and neighbors.
   - Check the newspaper and community bulletin boards.
   - Oliver’s Law: as a parent, you have the right to get information about any substantiated or inconclusive complaints about a child care provider that you select for your child. That information is public and you can get it by calling the local licensing office.
   - Community Care Licensing at 1-844-538-8267

2. **Look**
   - Is the facility safe, comfortable, and clean?
   - Is there a quiet place for naps?
   - Is the provider responsive to child’s needs?
   - Are there a variety of toys to play with?
   - Is there a sanitary diaper changing area?
   - Is the kitchen clean and sanitary?
   - How do the children interact with each other?

3. **Count**
   - Are there the correct number of adults per child?
   - How many infants are in care?
   - Are you comfortable with the adult:child ratio?

4. **Ask**
   - What is your experience and/or education in child care and child development?
   - What is your discipline philosophy?
   - What kinds of things do you do to help a new child transition into care?
   - What do you do when a child cries?
   - How would you react if you saw my child bite another?
   - How long have you been doing child care?
   - Can I visit my child whenever I want?
   - What is your plan for an emergency?
   - What do you charge and what does that include?
   - Do you have a contract?

5. **Listen**
   - To the answers that are given (take notes).
   - To the noise level of the room.
   - For joyful noise from the children.
   - For a respectful attitude towards the kids.
   - To the feelings you have.
   - To any concerns you might have.
   - To any concerns your child might have.

Set up an interview with the potential provider.
At the interview: **Look, Count, Ask, and Listen**

Contact Valley Oak Children’s Services for more information
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www.valleyoakchildren.org