

Daycare Comparison Worksheet

Score up to 3 daycares side by side. Use 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). Fill in after each tour while it's fresh.

Basics — fill in for each provider

- Provider A: _____ Cost: \$ _____/wk Distance: _____ min
- Provider B: _____ Cost: \$ _____/wk Distance: _____ min
- Provider C: _____ Cost: \$ _____/wk Distance: _____ min

Safety & licensing (score 1–5) A ___ B ___ C ___

- Clean license record / recent inspections
- Ratios in your child's room today
- Secure sign-in / pickup
- Safe sleep setup (infants)

Staffing (score 1–5) A ___ B ___ C ___

- Lead teacher tenure in your child's room
- Low staff turnover overall
- Warm, calm interactions with kids
- Qualifications and ongoing training

Environment (score 1–5) A ___ B ___ C ___

- Cleanliness — floors, changing tables, kitchen
- Age-appropriate materials and outdoor space
- Room feels calm, not chaotic

Logistics (score 1–5) A ___ B ___ C ___

- Hours cover your real workday
- Sick / vacation / closure policy works for you
- Location and rush-hour drive time
- Waitlist / start date matches your timeline

Fit (score 1–5) A ___ B ___ C ___

- Communication style matches yours
- Philosophy on discipline and screen time
- Your gut feeling walking out the door

Totals

■ Provider A total: ____ / 90

■ Provider B total: ____ / 90

■ Provider C total: ____ / 90

Deal-breakers (any single 1 or 2 in Safety / Staffing?)

■ _____

■ _____