

Youth Recreation Program Checklist

Use this list when visiting a youth program to see if it can meet the needs of your child.

- Are programs within the recreation center divided by age group?
- Are there gender specific programs?
- What activities are available? Do children have to participate in activities they do not like to do?
- Do program staff sign children in and out and monitor if the child is there? What is done if a child does not come or leaves early?
- What training does the staff have in working with children?
- What background checks are done on staff working with children?
- How does the staff deal with behavioral issues? (Provide an example of a behavior problem you have experienced with your child and ask how the staff would handle it.)
- Does the staff have experience dealing with children who have special needs? (Ask about any needs your child may have.)
- Do you provide any types of reports to parents on the child's behavior/activities in the program?
- What happens when a child has difficulties "fitting in" with other children in the program?
- How do you ensure no weapons are brought to the center and no gang activity takes place?
- What safety measures are in place outside of the building? Are the streets safe? Are there many strangers in the vicinity of the facility who "hang out" in the area? Do children have to cross busy streets to get to the building? Is there transportation to and home from the program.