



## How do we care for your baby?

There has been a lot of debate about babies in childcare. We want to reassure you about the quality of care your child will get in a Kidicorp centre. To help you we have developed a check list so you can decide if this is best for you and your child.

Kidicorp's vision is to make a positive difference in the lives of children and we understand the trust you place in us to take good care of your baby. You need to know that your baby will be well-cared for and nurtured as well as supported in their learning when you aren't there. We undertake to do that.

You might be weighing up home based care. Our nurseries are designed for babies. We employ specialised teachers trained in looking after babies, who know how to take care of them and make sure they do help the baby's brain develop. Our professional support structure offers specialised advice to teachers and builds on their knowledge on how to extend youngsters.

A good quality centre can support all the learning stages of your baby. Our qualified teachers know how to support children in developing foundation skills. For example, babies have reflexes that can be developed. We have the right puzzles for your baby to play with to develop the muscles in their hands. We provide an abundance of resources so your child can have access to probably more stimulating toys and equipment than most homes have.

## Our partnership with you

**The most important part of taking care of your baby is our partnership with you. Our teachers will develop close relationships with you so that together we know how to best support your child and share experiences of what is happening in their development.** We develop individual portfolios for your child so you can share in their day. ERO (Education Review Office) reports that in our under two centres they have found positive, trusting and responsive relationships with families and the wider community. They report that our teachers have a very good understanding of the children's learning, well being and developmental needs; that staff create a calm and relaxed atmosphere in which children engage in activities at their own pace and that children are comfortable in the environment and are familiar with routines which are unobtrusive and flexible.

## So what should you look for?

Leading research into what constitutes quality childcare for under twos lists a number of key features which Kidicorp centres meet. These are highly motivated and qualified staff, small group sizes, teacher stability, and low infant to caregiver ratios.

## How does Kidicorp meet the quality standards?

**Number of teachers:** We exceed the Government minimums with one teacher to three or four children. This means teachers can relate to each child as an individual.

**Same teachers:** We encourage and ensure the same teachers develop relationships with the same children. So children bond. This means reassurance for you and your child. These relationships are the foundation for all care and learning.

**Individual approach to each child:** We are not a factory, we allow your child to follow their own rhythm. Our focus is on YOUR CHILD. We develop an individual approach for each child. Once we have observed your child we prepare a plan to extend and encourage your child to achieve milestones. Respectful relationships underlie our philosophy of caring. Experienced teachers tune into the rhythms and routines of each child and adapt to them. We follow your child's pace and cues, not ours. Our teachers are gentle 'guiders' who use open ended questions and provide calm, nurturing care for young children.

**Qualified teachers:** It takes a minimum three year tertiary qualification to become a teacher. At a Kidicorp centre we pride ourselves on the number of qualified teachers we employ. We also have the country's most recognised Professional Guidance programme to support teachers and keep them up to date with child development.

We provide an extensive development and training programme so the teacher looking after your child is up to date in key areas of caring for under twos. The teacher will be skilled at developing one on one relationships and will be familiar with research on how a baby's brain develops. Many of our centres practice 'baby signing' so even if your child can't speak they can tell us what they need. This is what makes us unique amongst childcare providers.

## Extensive development and teacher support

**Professional approach:** At Kidicorp, we don't just care for your child; we also focus on how to support your child's development and learning.

The size of our company means we provide professional support managers who monitor our programmes and offer advice. We maintain and monitor standards as policies and guidelines. This means you can be assured we are at the forefront of health and safety needs.

**Social development:** Remember babies are in fact hugely social beings from birth, who thrive and in fact depend, on social relationships with a group of people, not just one. Yes, these relationships should be deep and meaningful, but don't just have to be with mum. Remember Hilary Clinton's famous words, "it takes a village to raise a child."

**Specialised curriculum for under twos:** We are very proud of the fact that when we take care of your child we are not babysitting. Did you know some of our most qualified and experienced teachers choose to teach this age group because of the satisfaction in seeing babies develop.

We have developed a rich curriculum for under two's. We don't just provide quality care, we also stimulate with learning to music, movement, physical play, art, language and so much more. Our teachers integrate the care of your under two (the nappy changing, feeding and sleeping) with teaching and learning so that special attention is given to developing the brain through these deep and connected relationships with the care giver.

**Environmental design:** Another important aspect to our care of your under two is the environment we provide. Many Kidicorp centres have special areas for under ones and under twos so they are not overrun by older children. This is important. We pay attention to design in our centres. We think about babies when it comes to things like lighting, noise, sleep arrangements. Our focus is on providing a homely, secure and relaxed environment where your baby will be cuddled and nurtured.

All these tips can also be found on the Brainwave trust website on how to choose a quality childcare centre. [www.brainwave.org.nz/](http://www.brainwave.org.nz/)

**Choose your childcare carefully:** Putting your baby into childcare, if you choose well, will not harm your child or make you a bad mum. Neither will it alter your relationship with your child. You are still and always will be the centre of their world.

Remember, you remain your child's best teacher and caregiver, and we rely on and want to work with you daily to ensure we can best serve your child's needs.

Many of our teachers are mums and dads themselves, so we know first hand the challenges that working parents face. Be reassured we will support you by giving your baby our best quality care.