



Assessing an Existing Space for Potential Use as a Child Care Center

Determine the facility, neighborhood, and other features that are most important to your organization as you consider locations for a child care center.

Location



Your organization may be interested in serving the **same community** in which you have historically worked.

Alternatively, it might be important to **seek a new neighborhood** for the center based on funding priorities, population trends, or large employer locations.

Interior Features



You might create a list of **non-negotiables** regarding the existing building itself (e.g., a **minimum square footage or number of floors**).

These are generally not feasible to change, although other building features—such as general condition, availability of a commercial kitchen, or multiple means of egress on each floor—that you also might identify as critical, **could be created through renovations**.

Exterior Features



There might be exterior features that would make the location a viable or poor fit for your center.

These might include **drop off/pick up options, access to public transportation, outdoor play areas, parking, and accessibility**.

While some of these features could be modified with time and money, others—such as access to public transportation—are immovable.

Costs



Building cost—whether **purchase or lease**—will likely be a factor of consideration, although that figure is only one cost among many.

Renovations, legal fees, furnishings and equipment, signage, staff time to secure facility licensure, program marketing, and other start-up costs will all differ based on the building and location itself and must also be considered.

Example Rubric for Assessing Feasibility

Feature	Score					Notes
	No	Not so good	Ok	Good	Great	
	1	2	3	4	5	
Neighborhood						
Placement on street						
Building size						
Cost						
Adaptability of space						
Outside play space						
Parking						
Zoning						
Overall Assessment:						