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Screening of Childcare Providers

Childcare providers undergo an extensive screening process to ensure that only the most experienced, flexible, responsible and nurturing caregivers are able to work with Parents in a Pinch. Parents in a Pinch reviews personal information, work history, and validity of their childcare references. Applicants seeking to become Parents in a Pinch caregivers are pre-screened regarding the strength of their childcare experience. Only those who meet their stringent criteria, including a minimum of two years of professional childcare experience and at least two recent childcare references, are invited to continue the process.

Parents in a Pinch reviews and evaluates the candidate's background and style during a face-to-face interview. They determine the individual's knowledge of child development, limit-setting techniques, and the degree to which the candidate shows warmth, creativity, know-how, humor, and flexibility.

The candidate's references are checked by phone even when written references are provided. Parents in a Pinch also verifies each caregiver's social security number and documentation verifying her ability to work in the United States. They then complete a criminal record background check that covers the previous seven to 10 years and check the National Sex Offender Public Registry.

Successful candidates also complete a training program covering health, safety, and child development. Topics include accident prevention, common childhood illnesses and their treatment, handling accidents and emergencies including choking emergencies, and best childcare practices. Candidates are oriented on agency rules, procedures and expectations, and in addition, many caregivers are certified and trained in Infant and Child CPR.

Once on board, after each and every job the caregiver completes, Parents in a Pinch follows up (via email and/or phone) with each client to ensure that their caregivers are maintaining the highest standards of care.