

Pod Safety Questions for Parents

*The safety questions to ask — and verify in person
—before your child joins any program.*



Two rules before the questions: **verify in person, not just on a listing** — see the space, meet the adults; and **“we’re all friends here” is not a safety plan** — warmth and procedures are not opposites. The best programs have both.

The 5 conversations to have

1. Adults & screening

- Who are all the adults my child will be around — including occasional helpers?
- What screening does each one have, what kind, and how recent?
- Who’s present when the primary facilitator can’t be?

Note: Screening requirements and types vary by location — ask what applies where you live, and verify.

2. Supervision & space

- What’s the adult-to-child ratio on a normal day?
- Walk the space yourself: exits, hazards, where kids play, working smoke alarms.
- Ask what happens during transitions — outdoor time, bathroom trips, pickup chaos.

Trust your gut on the walk-through; it exists for this.

3. Drop-off & pickup

- Who is authorized to collect my child, and how is that actually checked?
- What’s the late-pickup procedure?
- What if someone unexpected arrives?

A program that has thought this through can answer in specifics, not reassurances.

4. Health & emergencies

The illness policy — in writing?

- How are allergies and medications handled, and who knows about my child’s?
- What’s the emergency plan, and who gets called in what order?
- Has an incident ever happened, and how was it handled and communicated?

5. Communication & incidents

- How will I hear about my child’s day — and how will I hear about a problem?
- Is there an incident-report process?
- What’s the path if I have a concern, and what happened the last time a parent raised one?

What good looks like

Programs that take safety seriously tend to share a pattern

- answers in writing
- procedures that clearly get *used* (not just filed)
- openness to questions, and
- a visible difference between policy and vibes.

You're not looking for perfection.

You're **looking for evidence that someone thought about your child's day before your child arrived in it.**

Safety is one section of the conversation. Here's the whole thing.

Get the full 25-question checklist — fit, safety, money, and expectations
— to bring to any pod visit.

[Get the Tour Questions Checklist](#)