**Tara’s Advice**

My name is Tara McRaven. I am a full-time working mom. I have a 9 year old son that’s in child care. I’m a medical assistant for a doctor here in Columbia. I work from 8 *until.*

As a mom now, I would really suggest young moms, first-time moms, *any* mom, when searching for a day care when their baby is first born, before you have to go back to work, because as a mom I had to go to work when he was 6 weeks old. I didn’t have a choice. I would have started looking a lot sooner and had these websites where you can look and have these questions to take with you, and where you’re not in a rush, because you have to go back to work because your maternity leave is up or you have to go back to school, you have more time to say, “Hey, this is a licensed facility. Can I ask you some questions? How would you handle this situation? Can I meet your staff? Can I look at your rooms? How often do you clean? What’s your schedule like with taking care of your babies?”

The key is education and knowing what to ask, not feeling intimidated, because they’re taking care of your baby.

Look Listen, Ask. Know before they go. Ask these questions. Look, use your intuition.