

Daycare-Ready Bottle Checklist

Before you send that new bottle to daycare, run through this quick checklist to avoid mid-day calls about leaks or missing parts.

- **Leak-proof when closed:** Fill the bottle with water, close it, and turn it upside down over the sink. No drips allowed.
- **Covered mouthpiece:** The spout or straw should be protected by a cap or flip lid.
- **Easy for your child to open:** Practice at home so your toddler can drink independently.
- **Durable and drop-resistant:** Expect frequent falls from tables and high chairs.
- **Labeled with your child's name:** Use a waterproof, dishwasher-safe label on both the bottle body and lid.
- **No glass:** Most daycares prohibit glass bottles.
- **All parts are secure:** Avoid loose valves or detachable pieces that could become choking hazards.
- **Easy to clean thoroughly:** Make sure every part can be removed and washed daily.
- **Appropriate capacity:** Aim for 7–14 oz. Smaller bottles need more refills; larger ones may be too heavy.
- **Spare parts on hand:** Keep an extra straw or valve in your bag or at daycare if permitted.

Expert tip: Write your child's name in two places—such as the bottle body and lid—in case the pieces get separated. Some daycares also appreciate a small photo sticker for younger children.