

CHOOSING A PRESCHOOL

CHECKLIST FOR YOUR TOUR



- Are the teachers kind and loving to the children?
- Are the materials in the classroom and outdoors safe and in good condition?
- Are there enough toys and learning materials for the number of children?
- Does the program use TV, computers, or other types of technology with the children?
If so, how often are these materials used?
- Is the environment clean? What measures have been taken to keep outside contaminants from coming into the classrooms?
- Do the kids have opportunities for hands-on learning?
- Does the class follow a schedule or rhythm each day?
- Weather permitting, do children play outside?
- Are the kids able to make their own choices for some activities?
- Does the teacher use multiple methods for teaching information?
- How do teachers accommodate students who need special help?
- How do the teachers handle children who are not following directions or misbehaving?
- How do teachers facilitate social interaction and social development?
- Does the program incorporate technology as a communication tool? If so, is information shared with parents on how to access it and how the information is kept secured?

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- What is the teacher/student ratio? How many children are cared for in the classroom? How many teachers are in the classroom?
- Are parents welcome to drop-in without an appointment?
- Are there regular opportunities (at least twice per year) where parents can meet with the teachers and share their child's strengths and hear how their child is developing skills?
- What is the average length of time teachers work at the facility?
- What are the teachers' education and/or qualifications?
- How do teachers communicate with parents about the day-to-day school happenings?
- What is the preschool's written policy for discipline when behavior issues arise?
- Is there someone on staff who is trained to handle medical needs (issue medication, respond to injuries)? Have the teachers been trained on CPR and First Aid and are those certifications current?
- What are children required to do in terms of personal wellness (bathrooms, napping, etc)?
- How is arrival and dismissal handled? Are there clear check-in and check-out procedures?
- What safety procedures are in place to protect the kids? (Who is allowed on school grounds? Are the doors always locked? How does the preschool staff verify who is picking up each child? What are the emergency procedures?)
- Have all staff undergone comprehensive background checks?