

Questions to Ask When Choosing a Preschool for Your Child

Not all preschools are created equal. It is important to learn a few essential things about a preschool before you trust it with your child's first years of schooling. *Every* preschool should be clean, safe, and provide a positive learning environment, but there is much more to a school than nice facilities and happy teachers. When choosing a preschool for your child, it is important to ask questions. You might be surprised by what you find out.

Curriculum (*What are students taught?*)

- Does the school have a curriculum structured for building fundamental perceptual skills and concepts?
- What is the curriculum?
- What is the schedule of daily activities? How much time is spent on each subject (singing, dancing, social play, phonics and number concepts, art, etc.)?

Teaching Method (*How are students taught?*)

- What is the school's educational philosophy? Does the philosophy fit *your* desire for your child? Are the children free to "wander and discover"? Are children to "go at their own pace" or do teachers guide students carefully through a structured curriculum, daily building concept upon concept?
- Some schools have a philosophy that teaching structured skills such as reading and math should be delayed until six years of age.
- Does the school teach art as a skill or is it crafts? Do the children do their own work or does the teacher do it for them?

Thinking Skills

- What does the school do to teach thinking skills (logic skills such as sequencing, patterning, categorizing, and prioritizing)?

Self-Reliance

- Does the school help children become self-reliant?

Student Progress

- What are the daily, monthly, and annual goals?
- How will the school track your child's progress and report to you?