

CHECKLIST FOR A PRE-SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Finding the perfect pre-school or kindergarten can take some time. But if you take a few minutes and check out all of the options available to you, you should be able to find one that suits your child best.

Use this checklist as a guide for making your choice.

Greeting

- Do you like the way you were greeted?
- Do they have an open door policy for parents?
- Is there a parent bulletin board to let you know what's happening in the Kindergarten?

Licensing

- Is the Kindergarten registered with the local authorities?
- Are the Teachers certified or have diplomas in early childhood education?
- Does the staff have their first-aid certificates up-to-date?

Health and Safety

- Are the lunches and snacks prepared on site?
- Are there options to send a lunch box from home?
- How do they handle children with food allergies?
- Did you see first-aid kits?

Teachers and Other Staff

- Are these adults interacting pleasantly with the children?
- Are the teachers friendly and full of life?
- Can you hear songs and music?
- How many children per teacher?

Environment

- Was the indoor temperature adequate?
- Was there air circulating or did it seem stuffy?
- Does the Kindergarten smell clean?
- Is the room well lit?
- Are the toys washed on a regular basis?
- Are the bathrooms clean?
- Are there gates in front of the stairways?
- Is there an outdoor play area with sand, water and toys?

Curriculum & Activities

- Are there themes such as seasons, animals etc?
- Do they encourage running, jumping, dancing and moving their bodies?
- Do they encourage drawing, cutting, painting and gluing?
- Do they have fun, messy sensory activities for young children
- Do they have 'cookery' activities for children
- Do they have puzzles, story books and adequate toys?
- Do they have group games?
- Do you see the classroom set up well with work and play area defined clearly?
- Do they encourage talking and singing?
- Do they teach the same values as your family?
- Do they go outside every day (weather permitting)?
- Did the children present seem relaxed and having a good time?
- Did you feel comfortable asking questions?

Other Useful Questions

- What is the policy for vacations and holidays?
- What is their parental involvement policy?
- How often are their field trips/excursions?
- Do they have annual concerts or performances?
- What is their policy for sick children?
- What is the nap situation? What happens to the child who does not want to nap?
- What is their policy on colds, fevers, HFMD and chicken pox?

