

Guidelines for choosing a preschool

Questions to ask yourself before you begin your search

- What do you want your child to gain from this experience?
- What option best fits your child's personality and your families need?
- How does preschool fit into your daily life?
- What are the different type of preschool available
 - Faith based
 - Montessori
 - Kindergarten Prep
 - Child Centered
- Does transportation play a role?
- Does childcare play a role?

The search process:

- Ask others for their opinions on the various preschools
 - Friends
 - Pediatrician
 - Parents with older children
 - What advice do you wish you had received before choosing your child's preschool?
- Visit the preschools
 - Meet with the directors
 - What is the school philosophy on education?
 - What is the policy on discipline?
 - Are there consistent rules and clear regulations?
 - What is the staff turnover ratio?
 - What is the education level of the staff
 - 2 year certificate
 - 4 year degree
 - Early childhood license
 - What is the student/teacher ratio in each classroom?
 - Should never be more than 1 – 10
 - What are the safety procedures for picking up and dropping off children?
 - What is the cost and what are payment options and procedures?
 - What are the hours of the class?
 - Actual visit – bring your child
 - Do I feel welcome here?
 - Does my child seem interested in what they have to offer?
 - Do the teachers show a love of children and a dedication to their welfare?
 - Do the children in the setting seem happy?
 - How do the adults and children interact?
 - Is the setting clean and safe?

What matters most is that the preschool experience helps your child gain an appreciation of what school is like and a positive attitude toward school.