

# TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

## Choosing a Top-Tier Early Childhood Education Program

### LOOK FOR EVIDENCE OF WARM, TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



The most important thing to look for in an early childhood program is students' relationships with their teachers, because strong relationships are vital for early learners. Look for ways that programs emphasize student-teacher relationships as well as mutual respect between educators and young learners.

### CHECK FOR CHILD-SIZED ELEMENTS



Not every early childhood program will have access to a building that was fully constructed with a young child's perspective in mind, but you can still look for ways a school is set up to help children take ownership of their learning. Start by looking for easy-to-access items, like coat hooks and cubbies, books, art supplies, and other materials, and inquire as to how teachers work to help children learn to master both academic and self-care skills.

### ASK ABOUT EVIDENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICES

Top-tier early childhood programs keep up with the latest research to support young learners at this critical stage of development. Ask how the school keeps up to date with best practices and how those practices are incorporated into classrooms.



### ASK ABOUT FACULTY SUPPORT

Happy faculty make for a happy school. Ask how the school supports its teachers through professional development, and inquire how long instructors stay with the program.



### LOOK FOR A COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, BELONGING, AND INCLUSION

In our increasingly connected world, it's more important than ever for students to know how to work with and show respect for people who are different from them, and the right school community can help lay this foundation. Don't be afraid to ask how a school is building equity, belonging, and inclusion into its curriculum, and look for evidence of this work: children should be able to see themselves in the curriculum and classroom materials and see those who are different. Additionally, ask how teachers are trained to facilitate and encourage healthy and productive conversations around topics like race, gender, class, and ability.



### CONSIDER A SCHOOL THAT CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD FOR THE LONG HAUL



While many preschools function as standalone programs, some schools, including Rowland Hall, are designed to build on knowledge as students make their way through higher grades. Consider how your child learns best and whether staying on the same campus after preschool will contribute to that.



# Rowland Hall

EXTRAORDINARY LEARNING