

One of the most important decisions you will make as a parent is choosing a child care provider. You want your children to participate in programs that encourage creative exploration and discovery, lessons that prepare them for a lifetime of learning, and above all, you want your children to be safe and happy. To help you narrow down your choices and make an informed decision, we've compiled a checklist for you to use as you visit each child care location. Take your time and review your options carefully.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

YES NO

- Warm and inviting atmosphere
- Staff is patient, loving and responsive.....
- Overall environment is pleasant.....
- Positive communication with children
- Person conducting tour is knowledgeable of age-appropriate learning practices.....
- Person conducting tour acknowledged child

SAFETY

- Adult supervision at all times
- Age-appropriate learning materials.....
- Hand washing techniques followed by caregivers.....
- All dangerous products, such as medications and chemicals, are kept out of reach of children.....
- Current licenses and permits posted
- Smoke detectors and fire extinguishers
- Teachers are First Aid and CPR certified.....
- Instant access to medical information and arrival/departure times
- Immunizations required
- Locked entrances prevent unauthorized access to the lobby area and building.....

FAMILY COMMUNICATION

- Emergency weather/evacuation plans are provided
- On-going school event notices available
- Regular verbal and written communication

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- Provides fun environment for learning.....
- Skill development through small/large and individual/group activities daily
- Teachers treat each child as an individual; encourages them to explore and discover through their own ways
- Teachers follow age-appropriate practices/guidelines.....
- Prepares students to meet or exceed the latest Kindergarten Readiness standards.....
- Daily outdoor play (weather permitting).....
- Small class sizes allow for plenty of individual attention.....
- Teachers receive professional development
- Advanced curriculum planning and child assessment technologies.....
- Classroom learning centers include quiet, dramatic play, problem solving, creative, construction, reading and math areas

FACILITY

- Separate diaper changing areas
- Bathrooms with child-sized commodes
- No signs of needed repair or maintenance