
WHAT PRESCHOOL SHOULD MY CHILD GO TO?

A Comprehensive Guide to Choosing the Best Fit ...Cheat Sheet...

This cheat sheet is meant to help you figure out whether or not you want to send your child to a specific preschool.

This is how the cheat sheet should be used:

- Read all the questions first.
- Answer what questions you already know.
- Highlight the questions that are most important to you.
- Tour the school to answer the rest of the questions.
- Refer back to the original blog post to make sure you feel like you're ready to make a decision!

Here's the original post: <http://happilyevermom.com/what-preschool-should-my-child-go-to>

Let's dive in!

~Katie

What is the school's philosophy statement (note the important points below):

Are they accredited or have any certifications? (circle) yes no

Do kids go out in the rain or snow? Yes no

If no, what do they do when it rains/snows? _____

Are kids allowed to take off their shoes? (circle) yes no

How do you drop off your child? In the classroom, curbside, or? _____

Can you drop into the classroom at anytime or are you not allowed to drop by unannounced?
(circle) yes no

ENVIRONMENT – Indoors/Outdoors

Is there a safe entry to the school that can be closed/secured? (circle) yes no

Is there communication around the school/classroom about what's happening? (circle) yes no

Is there a newsletter? (circle) yes no

Are these play areas present in the classroom:

- Kitchen/dramatic play area? (circle) yes no
- Book/reading nook? (circle) yes no
- Building area with trains, blocks, and manipulatives? (circle) yes no
- Child-sized tables for activities like play dough, puzzles, manipulatives, etc.? (circle) yes no
- Writing/Drawing/Art areas or places where kids can use materials creatively? (circle) yes no

Are there places for children to play outside and: run, ride bikes, play with water tables, climb, play in sand, and swing/slide? (circle) yes no

Can kids go inside or outside whenever they want? (circle) yes no

Are their open shelves for kids to take toys out on their own? (circle) yes no

Are children required to participate in certain activities or do they have a choice? (circle) yes no

What activities do the kids do (what's the curriculum)?

Do you see process art or ditto art in the classroom? _____

Are there pictures/artwork/stories you see displayed? (circle) yes no

TEACHER/STAFF

Will your child get a new teacher each year or does it stay the same? (circle) yes no

Are you seeing teachers interact with the kids? (circle) yes no

Are the teachers affectionate with the kids? (circle) yes no

Do the teachers bend down to the child's level when talking with them? (circle) yes no

Do staff have ongoing trainings? (circle) yes no

What's the turnover rate – do teachers stay or leave a lot each year? _____

Did you click with the teacher?

CURRENT KIDS

What's the number of kids in the entire school? _____

How many classrooms do they have? _____

How many kids are in each class? _____

What's the child/teacher ratio? _____

Are the kids potty trained? (circle) yes no

Does the current group of kids get along (for the most part)? (circle) yes no

Can kids have "loveys" or items from home? (circle) yes no

Do kids have a cubby or a place to store their things? (circle) yes no

Do they need a change of clothes stored? (circle) yes no

Is there a group time? (circle) yes no

How is it handled when kids disagree?

NITTY GRITTY DETAILS – complete after the tour

How far is the school from your house?

How far is it from work?

What's the cost?

Do tuition costs change annually?

What have you heard from word of mouth about the school?

How did you feel when you're there?

Final thoughts?

What's your gut decision after touring?