

Important things to consider and questions to ask when evaluating Preschools:

- Distance from home/work?
- School start and end dates?
- Class meeting days?
- Class times?
- Registration fee?
- Monthly fee?
- Is there a waiting list?
- What is the drop off/pick up procedure?
- What type of security measures are in place?
- What is the Student/Teacher ratio in each classroom?
- What is the teacher(s) level of experience and education?
- Is your child required to be potty trained?
- How structured is the day?
- What types of activities are done? What is the curriculum for age group?
- Are there hands-on activities regularly?
- Do they go outside everyday (weather permitting)?
- How many classes/age ranges are on playground at the same time?
- Do they have a large indoor play area for bad weather days?
- Do they have special instructor(s) for music or art? How often?
- Do they use computers? How often? How many children per computer?
- Do they have rest time?
- How do they handle discipline issues?
- Are there parent helpers/what is the level of parent participation?
- Are there fundraisers?
- Are there field trips?
- Do they have extended or “stay days”?
- What do they do for snack time each day?
- What is the illness policy?
- How do they handle first aid situations?
- Can you visit while class is “in session” to get a better feel for the school?

Common Pitfalls when Choosing a Preschool:

- Failing to do your research.
- Forgetting to gather the basic info for each age level before deciding on a particular school. What 2's, 3's and 4's do each day can vary greatly.
- Becoming too focused on location, make sure the school meets your overall needs.
- Selecting a school based on perceived “prestige”.
- Selecting a school because it's a bargain.
- Picking a particular facility because of a specific teacher.
- While word of mouth is a good place to start your search for a preschool, do not base your decision solely on it.
- Sticking with a school. If you aren't happy with a preschool, start the process again.