



Selecting the Right School for Your Child

Capacity

✓ INTELLECTUAL

- getting ready to learn
- sense of wonder and curiosity
- emerging language skills
(speaking, reading, writing, listening)

✓ PHYSICAL

- body awareness
- gross and fine motor skills

✓ SOCIAL

- sense of community
- working and playing in small and large groups

✓ AESTHETIC

- creative imagination
- self-expression

✓ EMOTIONAL

- understand self
- accepts self and others

✓ ETHICAL/SPIRITUAL

- moral self

Things to consider

What is the school's educational philosophy and mission? It is consistent with what is advocated by early childhood educators? Do you and your child feel comfortable with it?

What is included in the curriculum? (Examples: personal and social development, language arts, social studies, mathematics, science and health, music, art, movement and physical education.)

Do playground equipment and play areas help children develop strength, speed, balance, coordination, agility, flexibility? Are playgrounds safe for young children & well-supervised?

Do children have opportunities to share with, learn from, and help each other?

What kinds of settings bring children together? (Examples: learning centers, activity areas, cooperative learning groups.)

Do children explore their interests and ideas through visual and tactile arts, movement, music, and dramatic play?

Is the learning environment nurturing and caring? Do children enjoy learning? Do they feel safe? Are they encouraged to be explorers, discoverers, inventors?

How are societal, cultural, and religious values and beliefs handled?



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Things to consider:

- Admission requirements
- After school care
- Campus facilities
- Cost (tuition, materials, financial aid, scholarships)
- Curriculum
- Extra-curricular activities (dance, music, art, sports, language)
- Grading system
- Location
- Meals and snacks
- Parent organizations
- School philosophy
- School hours (drop-off and pick-up times)
- Size of school (number of students)
- Teaching practices