



Are You Choosing a Preschool or Kindergarten for Your Child? Important Questions to Ask:

1. Does your school have a teaching philosophy for Early Childhood education?
2. Are there half- and full-day options? May I choose my child's days?
3. How many children are in attendance at any given time? What is the ratio of teachers to students? Are assistants trained teachers or parent volunteers?
4. What themes are explored? How often do thematic learning and discovery centers change?
5. How are children encouraged to express independence?
6. Do children have unstructured play time when they can explore and learn on their own and play with others?
7. Do children have one-on-one time with teachers regularly?
8. How are reading and math skills developed?
9. How are conflicts among children handled?
10. Do children have special classes outside the main room, such as a second language or music?
11. How are gross motor skills developed? Do children have access to a full gymnasium and a safe playground? How often do they visit the gym and/or playground?
12. Does your school teach character qualities as part of the curriculum (such as respect for self and others, gratitude, and peace)?
13. Does your school provide an extended-day program (before- and after-school care, also known as latchkey)?