

18. How do you communicate with the staff? (face-to-face meetings, phone, email)
19. Does the teacher keep the parent(s) regularly informed of the child's progress and school activities in a language they can understand?
20. Does the school have a number of ways for the parent(s) to be involved and help their child at home? (i.e. a school newsletter, classroom volunteers, family events, book or toy lending library)
21. If a child has a disability or special needs, does the school provide accommodations and support?

Ask Yourself:

While visiting facilities, you should consider the following:

1. Do I feel welcome?
2. Are the teachers warm and caring with the children?
3. How do the teachers handle problems and conflicts?
4. Do teachers work with children individually and in small groups of three or four?
5. Does staff show acceptance and respect to all children regardless of culture, race, language, or disability?
6. Do the children appear to be happy and engaged in activities?
7. Do the children have opportunities to select what they want to do at times throughout the day?
8. Are the children talking and interacting with each other?
9. Do the children seem to be working well with one another (sharing, playing cooperatively, and taking turns)?
10. Do you see evidence that teachers use a variety of methods to teach letters, numbers, shapes, and new vocabulary words?
11. Does the classroom have a library with a variety of books and other reading material?
12. Do they have alternative formats if needed for your child?
13. Are the materials in good condition?
14. Do the teachers encourage hands-on learning such as learning science concepts with water and sand or math through cooking?
15. Are the furniture, playground equipment, and toys age appropriate, clean, and in good condition?
16. When the children are outside, are the teachers engaged in and encouraging the children's play?
17. Does each child have enough room indoors and outdoors to move around without interfering with other children's play space?