



QUICK REFERENCE

# QUALITY CHILDCARE CHECKLIST

Parents will agree – selecting the right child care can be an agonizing decision. Research tells us that children's brains are rapidly developing between infancy and age five. A child's healthy development depends on positive, engaging experiences during these early years of life. Choosing the right care for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make for your child. The first step is to know your options. We hope you will choose Primrose!

1. Ask family, friends, coworkers and your pediatrician to recommend local high-quality programs.
2. Visit each school's website to learn more about their programs.
3. Once you've developed a short list of top choices, call with your questions. If you like what you hear over the phone, schedule a tour.

TOPIC	THINGS TO CONSIDER	PRIMROSE	SCHOOL #2	SCHOOL #3
<b>BASIC INFO</b>				
<b>School Name</b>				
<b>Location</b>	Is it close to your home?			
	Is it close to your work?			
<b>Hours</b>	What are drop off and pick-up times?			
<b>Tuition</b>	What is the tuition?			
	Are there different fees for different ages?			
	Do fees include breakfast and/or lunch?			
	Are there discounts for siblings?			
	Are there any extra fees – registration fee, supply fees, late fees?			
	Does tuition cover any enrichment programs?	<b>YES</b>		
<b>Accreditation</b>	Is the school registered, licensed or accredited? For how long?			
	Is the actual school accredited or just the organization?	<b>YES: All are required</b>		
<b>Teacher Ratio</b>	What is the teacher/student ratio? <i>Look for low teacher/student ratios.</i>			
<b>Tour - Time &amp; Date</b>	<i>Scheduling a tour is a MUST!</i>			
<b>CURRICULUM</b>				
<b>Goals/Philosophy</b>	Does the philosophy fit with the values you have for your child?			
	Is the curriculum research-based?	<b>YES</b>		
	Does the curriculum prepare children for the transition into elementary school? Does the school have a proven track record in preparing children for elementary school?	<b>YES: Students perform at 2x level of peers on Bracken</b>		
<b>Social-Emotional Programs</b>	Is there a character development program?	<b>YES</b>		
	Does the school offer activities to support the community?	<b>YES: Helping Hands® &amp; more</b>		

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<b>CURRICULUM (PG.2)</b>				
<b>School Name</b>				
<b>Math</b>	How does the school introduce math concepts to children?	Big Math for Little Kids®		
<b>Reading</b>	What is the school's approach to teaching reading?	Houghton Mifflin Reading®		
<b>Music</b>	Is music integrated into the curriculum for teaching and learning rather than just playing in the background? Is music an immersion program that combines school-to-home connections? <i>Early childhood music education has many cognitive &amp; emotional development benefits.</i>	<b>YES:</b> Rhythm & Notes® with music from The Music Class®		
<b>Physical Activity</b>	Do the children play outside? Is the playground age appropriate? <i>Appropriate physical development is key for healthy children.</i>	<b>YES:</b> Thumbs Up!®  <b>YES</b>		
<b>Technology</b>	Is appropriate technology integrated into the classrooms? Is it used as a tool for creative expression and problem solving rather than just for playing games?	<b>YES</b>		
<b>Language</b>	Does the school offer a foreign language program? Does the school use sign language in infant and toddler classrooms?	<b>YES:</b> Spanish, Mucho Mundo®  <b>YES</b>		
<b>Field Trips</b>	Do the children take field trips? If so, what are the policies?	<b>YES</b>		
<b>Private Pre-K &amp; Kindergarten</b>	Does the school offer a Pre-K program? Does the school offer a Kindergarten program?			
<b>LEARNING ENVIRONMENT</b>				
	What is the atmosphere of the classroom? Is the school safe, clean and welcoming? Does it have a positive energy?			
	Are the children engaged in organized activities and interacting with teachers and other students?			
	Are the teachers responding to the children and talking with them, not at them? <i>Ask to see the daily schedule for the class that your child would be in. Note if this schedule is posted outside or inside of the classroom.</i>			

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<b>PEOPLE</b>				
<b>School Name</b>				
<b>Overall Feel</b>	Are the teachers and children happy? <i>Trust your gut reaction!</i>			
<b>Teacher Training</b>	What are the training requirements for teachers?			
	Is there ongoing professional development for teachers?	<b>YES</b>		
	Are teachers certified in first aid and CPR?	<b>YES</b>		
<b>Staff Turnover</b>	How does the school handle staff turnover?			
	How long have the staff and teachers been with the school or in early childhood education?			
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>				
	What are the school's policies related to safety?			
	Does the school have an emergency preparedness plan?	<b>YES: Safe School Plan</b>		
	Are there safe, fenced and litter-free outdoor play areas?	<b>YES</b>		
	Is handwashing encouraged?	<b>YES</b>		
	Are the toys and furniture in good shape?			
	Are medicines and cleansers locked up?	<b>YES</b>		
	Does the school provide nutritious meals and snacks?	<b>YES</b>		
<b>OTHER</b>				
<b>Parent Communication</b>	How does the school communicate with parents? Does communication include:			
	Teacher conferences	<b>YES</b>		
	Daily activity reports	<b>YES</b>		
	Weekly newsletters	<b>YES</b>		
	Monthly newsletters	<b>YES</b>		
	Email	<b>YES</b>		
	Letters to parents	<b>YES</b>		
	Telephone conversations	<b>YES</b>		
	Is there a dedicated Parent Portal on the school website?	<b>YES</b>		
<b>ADDITIONAL NOTES</b>				