

Picking a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you'll make as a parent. It's also, in most cases, an entirely new process!

That's why we've created this checklist and timeline to help make your life easier.

Hang it on your fridge to save a spot for the adorable artwork you'll have very, very soon.



10-12 Months Before Starting:

Google Search Schools & Visit Websites

Make a Long List

Prepare Questions to Ask

Check State Records

Read Up on and Compare Philosophies and Curriculums

Make a List of Your Top Priorities in a School

Visit and Tour Schools & Talk with Directors

Add Yourself to Waitlists of Schools You Like

Tip: Most schools have a small fee to join the waitlist. This ensures that families on the list are truly interested in the school. But that doesn't mean you should break the bank signing up for all of them. Visit before you join.

8-10 Months Before Starting:

Confirm Waitlist Placement

Check References

Ask to be Included on Mailings (if desired)

Tip: Ask for current parent contact information to check references. If a school can't provide this, it's a giant red flag.

4-8 Months Before Starting:

Tip: You want to be ready to say "yes!" as soon as a spot opens up, so have a good idea of which school is your top choice.

Decide on Top Choices

Make Sure Medical / Immunizations are Up to Date

Follow Up on Waitlist Placement

0-4 Months Before Starting:

Touch Base with Schools

Make a List of Anything Necessary for Enrollment (Paperwork, Special Materials, etc.)

Tip: Having all of your paperwork organized frees you up to focus on preparing your child for a big, new adventure!

Tips For When You Tour:

Get The Most Out Of Your Visit.



Look For:

Cleanliness: Don't be afraid to check the bathrooms too!

Engagement: How much interaction do you see between the teachers and the children?

Artwork: Is it all the same or is there variety? Variety is better.

Your Child: If you brought your child, how does he or she react to these new surroundings?

Ask:

Do you have a curriculum?

How much is play encouraged?

How do you incorporate math, science and reading?

What is the teacher turnover rate?

How is discipline handled?

What kind of foods are served?

How do you schedule naps?