



The article below is from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This association recommends the following tips to consider when looking for a preschool for your child. We hope this information is helpful in your preschool search.

## **What Does a High-Quality Preschool Program Look Like?**

Teachers focus on these areas to help children learn best.

### **Creating a Caring Community of Learners**

In a high-quality preschool, children develop positive relationships with each other and their teachers.

#### **Teachers:**

- Are warm and caring, and they get to know each child and family well
- Help children learn how to play, work together, and make friends
- Plan activities so that all children can join in
- Include every child's family, language, and culture in the program

### **Teaching to Support Children's Development and Learning**

Teachers set up the classroom, choose materials, and plan activities that support children's learning.

#### **Teachers also:**

- Provide materials and activities that interest children and challenge them
- Encourage children's efforts by making specific comments
- Set clear limits for children's behavior and explain the reasons

### **Planning and Adapting Curriculum**

A preschool curriculum is based on what most preschoolers should know and be able to do.

#### **Teachers plan and adapt curriculum to help children learn and grow by:**

- Setting learning goals for children that are challenging but achievable with help
- Balancing group activities and instruction guided by the teacher with activities children choose themselves
- Providing enough time for children to get deeply involved in activities and learning
- Paying attention to and supporting children's interests, skills, and knowledge

### **Assessing Children's Development and Learning**

Through regular assessment, teachers understand what each child knows and can do. This helps them decide which materials, activities, and experiences to add to help children continue learning.

#### **Teachers assess children's learning and development by:**

- Regularly taking notes on what children do and say
- Collecting samples of children's drawings and writings
- Taking photos of the things children make
- Using screening tests to identify when children need more learning support
- Asking you what activities your child does at home and what interests he has



### **Developing Relationships With Families**

Teachers want to build trusting relationships with families. They know that you are the most important people in your child's life. **Teachers partner with families by:**

- Listening to families' goals and concerns for their children
- Encouraging families to participate in the program in different ways
- Showing respect for each family and its language and culture
- Trying to find ways to communicate in a family's home language

The first few years of your child's life are such important learning years. Connecting with warm, caring adults early on helps your preschooler form strong relationships throughout his life. Together, you and your child's teachers can make good choices that'll give your child a great start!

Reference: National Association for the Education of Young Children

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/what-does-high-quality-program-for-preschool-look-like>