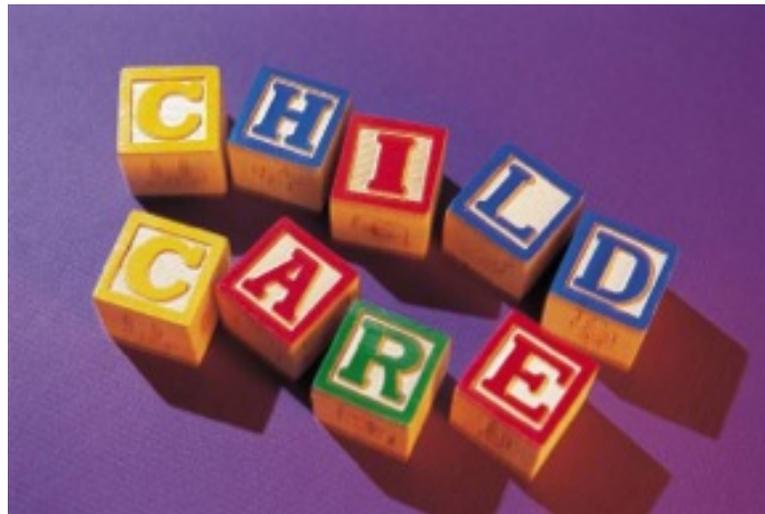


**THE STORK'S NEST
CHILD ACADEMY**
"IT'S OUR PLEASURE
TO CARE FOR YOUR TREASURE!"



The parents guide:



Choosing the Right Daycare for your Child

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INTRODUCTION



Choosing your child's daycare center or first pre-school is both an exciting and unsettling prospect. Regardless of the qualities you're looking for, it's smart to start researching early as **space is often limited**.

Here are questions to ask, and things to look for to ensure that this school will be right for your child and you.

Be sure to arrange a tour in advance! You may want to arrange an initial visit without your child and a follow-up visit with him or her to observe how they function in the program.

Schedule a Visit to
Stork's Nest Now!

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BEFORE YOU VISIT...



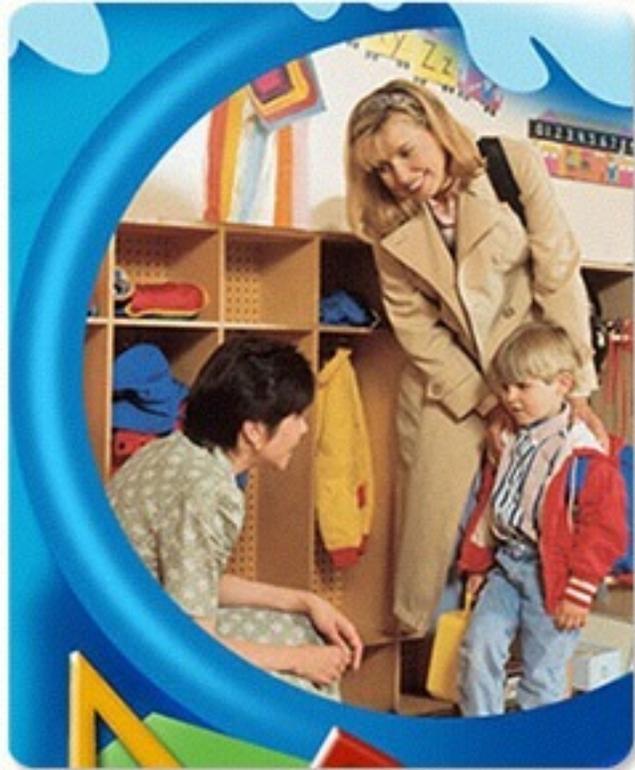
Ask yourself:

- What kind of childcare or school environment am I looking for?
- Do you picture your child in a busy, active place with lots of other children, or are you looking for a small, nurturing environment with just a few kids?
- Are you looking for a particular educational philosophy?
- What kinds of specific needs does your young child have:
 - toilet training?
 - napping?
 - socializing?
- Do you want a school located near your workplace or your home?
- What kinds of needs do you have regarding your schedule?

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WHEN YOU GET THERE...



- **Consider if the school is a good fit for your child — and you.** Can you picture your child thriving here? Will this school engage his interests? How will she do socially in this environment?
- **Spend time observing.** A School should conduct thorough tours.
- **Watch silently in the classroom and observe the interactions.** Ask yourself, “Is this the kind of environment I can see my young child thriving in?”
- **What is the educational philosophy?** How does this school approach learning? Some schools are play-based, some introduce reading and math earlier than others, and many schools incorporate multiple principles.

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WHEN YOU GET THERE...



- **How large are the classes and what is the teacher-child ratio?** Class size ratios in daycare settings vary by state. Ask your school what the mandate is. For example, in Rhode Island it's as follows: 1:4 infants. 1:6 toddlers 1:9 for three year olds, 1:10 4 year olds, 1:12 for kindergarten.
- **What is the look and feel of the school?** Does it feel warm and inviting? Or is it cold and institutional? Is it clean and organized, or messy and chaotic?
- **What kind of work is up on the walls?** Do you see original art, or posters and worksheets? Is the work placed at eye level so young children can see it?
- **Are the facilities old or new?** Do they have a gym or play yard? Is the atmosphere exciting? Do students seem happy? Do they look busy or bored?

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WHAT ELSE TO ASK?

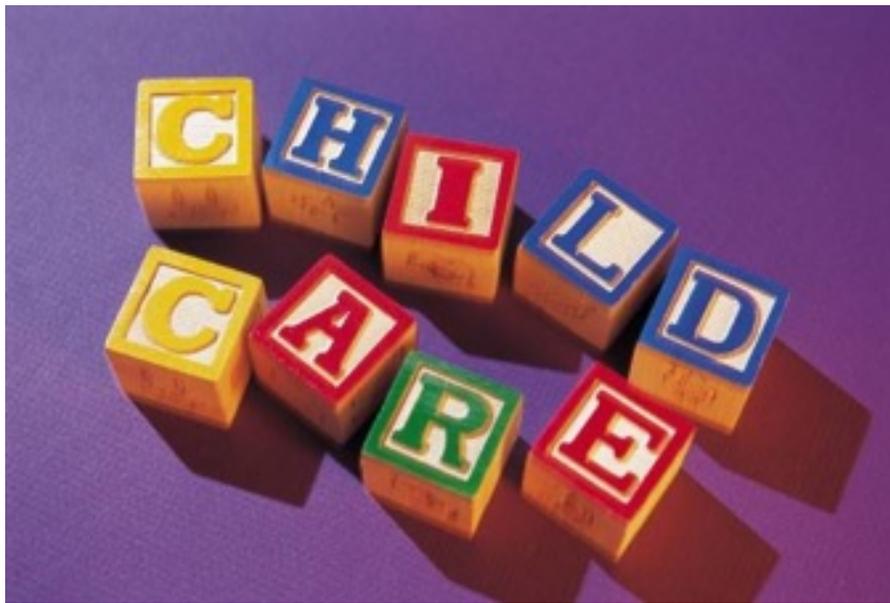


- **Are children working all together or individually?** Is everyone doing the same project or activity at the same time? Are individual interests being accommodated? Will your child's learning style be suited well to this school's approach? How do children decide what to do, when they want to do it, and with whom?
- **Assess the staff and teachers.** Do they seem happy and excited — or bored? Ask, *“What is staff turnover rate?”* and *“How long have teachers been with the program?”* Also, inquire about how they were trained and training requirements.
- **How much do the children play?** Both boys and girls need room to run around and time to do it. And both need plenty of opportunity for active and imaginative play.

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WHAT ELSE DO YOU ASK??



- **How do parents get involved in the school?** Is there an active parent's organization? Can parents volunteer in the classroom? If you do volunteer, what kinds of activities can parents help with? And will you get to work with your child?
- **How is information communicated to parents?** How do teachers and the administration keep parents informed? Is there a good newsletter? Do you get e-mail updates? Can you e-mail the teachers with questions? How often do you meet with your child's teacher?
- **How does the school address social-emotional issues?** How does the staff help children resolve conflicts? How are issues like hitting, throwing, and biting addressed? Does it have class meetings? Does it have a specific approach for teaching social-emotional skills?

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SCHEDULE A VISIT TODAY!

WE KNOW YOU HAVE LOTS OF QUESTIONS. WE HOPE WE GAVE YOU SOME SUGGESTIONS TO GET YOU GOING ON YOUR WAY TO FINDING A HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR YOUR CHILD.

SET UP A TIME TO SPEAK TO ONE OF OUR STORK'S NEST STAFF!

SCHEDULE A VISIT NOW!

****OR****

SCHEDULE A 20 MINUTE PHONE INTERVIEW TODAY!

WE KNOW YOU HAVE LOTS OF QUESTIONS. WE HOPE WE GAVE YOU SOME SUGGESTIONS TO GET YOU GOING ON YOUR WAY TO FINDING A HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR YOUR CHILD.

SET UP A TIME TO SPEAK TO ONE OF OUR STORK'S NEST STAFF!

SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW!

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