

Choosing the Right Kindergarten

How do you pick the best school for your child?

This worksheet provides you with questions to consider as you choose a school for your child.

Remember, you are looking for a school that will make the educational experience for your child and you as rewarding as possible.

Write Down Five Things That Are Most Important to You

Think of what is most important to you and your child's education. As you go through the selection process, you may want to add to and revise your list.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Choosing a school is much like buying a new house or car.

If you were looking to buy a car, vacuum cleaner, or refrigerator, you could talk to friends and family and find information on the Internet, in consumer magazines, or in other published resources.

Similarly, when choosing a school, you may also have to make phone calls and collect written material from different schools to get the information you need. Start your search by thinking about your child. After all, you know your son or daughter better than anyone else does.

Your Child's Needs

You are your child's first teacher. You know them best! Take time to think about how they learn.

Does your child need a more structured environment?

Does your child need more challenging work or creative environment?

Does your child generally need extra help or more time to complete a task?

Does your child need an English Language Acquisition (ELA) Program?

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How Does Your Child Learn Best?

Does your child learn best by seeing how things work?

By reading about how something works?

By listening?

By participating in discussions?

Location of School

Do you want your child to go to a school within walking distance of your home?

How far are you willing to have your child bussed? Does your child have special busing needs?

How far are you willing to drive your child to school?

Does your child want to be in a school with his or her friends?

Do you want your child to go to a school near your after-school care?

Near where you work?

Near a close relative?

Curriculum

Do you want a school that has a special focus or theme for teaching the curriculum?

Does your child have special learning needs? What are some supports the school should have to accommodate those needs?

What particular approaches to teaching and learning are you hoping the school will have in place? (e.g., group projects, individual performance, frequent testing)?

This worksheet was adapted from the United States Department of Education's Choosing a School for Your Child booklet. www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oii