



Kindergarten Checklist

Keep the following statements in mind when you are looking for a kindergarten program, along with the advantages and disadvantages found in the First Steps booklet. You can discuss with the provider some of these statements directly; you will get answers to many of them just by observing the program. Add any questions or concerns you may have to this list.

About the Provider

- Learn what experience the provider has with kindergartners. He/she has early childhood education or training.
- The provider encourages each child's independence. They assist when needed.
- The provider is sensitive to each child's individual needs. The provider respects each child's learning style, emotional expression, creativity, etc.
- The provider teaches and models appropriate behaviors and interactions.
- The provider praises appropriate behaviors.
- The provider gives the parent regular feedback on the child's progress and daily activities.
- You agree with the provider's discipline styles.
- Ask if transportation is provided. If so, ask to and from what destinations. If not, ask if the provider makes arrangements if a certain number of children require transportation to a specific destination.

About the Curriculum

- Learn if the kindergarten program is a half-day or full-day program.
- Learn what the lesson plans and how long each session or unit lasts.
- Learn whether lesson plans include weekly or monthly themes that focus on a special area of interest (i.e., seasons, animals, nutrition, cultures, etc.).
- Learn what types of learning materials are used and how they are used. These materials should be meaningful to the children, in terms of their personal experiences and development.
- The planned activities should help to develop your child's self-esteem and promote positive feelings and learning.
- The materials and activities (i.e., puzzles, art materials, beads and string, etc.) encourage the development of fine motor skills.
- The children have daily opportunities for artistic expression through various forms of art and music (i.e., singing, rhythmic activity, etc.).

- Enough time is set aside for creative and dramatic play (i.e., make-believe or "pretending").
- Enough time is set aside each day for children to move about freely and exercise, developing their large motor skills.
- The children have opportunities to select in which activities to participate.
- The rules are simple, clear, and consistent for the children and listed in a positive format (i.e., "Do..." rather than "Don't...").
- The provider speaks to each child individually.
- Learn the way in which the provider encourages language development (i.e., by reading stories, circle time, etc.).

Continued



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Kindergarten Checklist (continued)

About the Curriculum (continued)

- Field trips and special events are planned. Parents are given permission slips to sign.
- Learn the methods used to help develop and encourage the use of problem-solving skills.
- There should be a balanced of group and individual activities.

About the Curriculum

- Each child has their own storage area or an area for their personal belongings.
- Materials are stored in clearly marked containers. Toys and equipment are accessible to the children.
- Books are available for the children. They are rotated periodically.

- The children have a quiet time/nap time and individual cots are assigned. The area should be roomy and free of distractions.
- The bathroom is cleaned and sanitized daily. It is safe and appropriate for a young child's use. Soap is provided at the children's level and is available for every hand washing.