



Child Care Checklist

“Excellence is our Standard”

First Impression - Office/Lobby	Premier Christian	Child Care Center #2	Child Care Center #3
Was your first impression warm and inviting?			
Were you greeted by an office member?			
Was the person that greeted you professional, yet warm?			
Classroom - Staff	Premier Christian	Child Care Center #2	Child Care Center #3
Were you greeted by the teacher upon entering the classroom?			
What experience do the Teachers have?			
Are Teachers certified in CPR/First Aid?			
Do the teachers appear to be engaged in the classroom?			
Do they talk to children at eye level and listen to them?			
What is the communication between parents and teachers (daily notes, calls, emails..etc)			
Classroom – Children	Premier Christian	Child Care Center #2	Child Care Center #3
Are the children engaged in activities?			
Do the children seem to be happy and interacting with the Teacher and other children?			
Are children allowed to freely express themselves through Art, Music, and play?			
Is the Class overall Clean and put together, i.e. bulletin boards, sinks etc?			
Does the classroom facilitate an environment for education and quality care of the children?			

Curriculum	Premier Christian	Child Care Center #2	Child Care Center #3
What type of curriculum do they offer?	Abeka For more information visit Abeka.com		
What does the daily schedule consist of?			
What are extra activities that are available to the children? Weekly/Monthly?			
Does the curriculum have a structure that develops the child intellectually and socially?			
What are the creative aspects the curriculum offers?			
Is the Curriculum developmentally appropriate? Explain?			
Are Parent Conferences offered? How often?			
Meals	Premier Christian	Child Care Center #2	Child Care Center #3
Did you receive a copy of the menu?			
How many meals/snacks are offered a day and what times?			
Do the meals/snacks have nutritional value?			
How are Allergies/Food Allergies handled?			
What is the policy for food preparation and food brought from parents etc?			
Parents	Premier Christian	Child Care Center #2	Child Care Center #3
Does the school encourage parent involvement? Examples?			
Are Parents allowed to drop in anytime?			
What if my child is ill? What is the policy for handling children that are ill?			
What if I need someone else to pick up my child?			

Misc Questions	Premier Christian	Child Care Center #2	Child Care Center #3
Name of Person who Toured You?			
Contact Information received?			
Notes and other important items about the school:			



“10 Things You Must Know When Touring A Center For Your Child”

1. Price vs. Quality

When it comes to finding a quality center for your children it is important to place Quality over Price. Quality centers often cost more but the benefits typically outweigh the cost in terms of the care and education your child will receive from being in a high quality center. Much goes into ensuring that your child is taken care of both physically and mentally. Much of this comes in the form of having a high quality staff that is engaged in their profession of caring and educating children. When touring a center that you are considering it is important to speak to the Director who is in charge of the center; as well as the teacher that will be caring for your child to discover what a typical day involves and how the children are educated, yet also nurtured. The lasting effects of ensuring that your child attends a center that cares for the whole child is a gift that can equip your child to have a successful education for many years to come, if not a lifetime.

2. Curriculum

The Curriculum that your child learns from is very important when deciding which center is best for your child. Some Curriculums have proven to be less effective in preparing children for elementary school and beyond. This is important as this can cause many headaches and frustration for parents when children are not prepared to go to traditional schools. Children often come home frustrated and have a feeling of being inadequate. Homework at the kitchen table can become very frustrating for both children and parents alike. Selecting a high quality center is not the entire answer but will most definitely place your child in a much better position to succeed in his/her later years of school. Speak to the elementary school that your child will be attending to see if they can tell you what centers the children come from in the community that are highly prepared. When touring a center it is important to ask questions about the curriculum that is used in the school. Does the Director thoroughly understand the curriculum or merely reciting “programs” that the center offers? You will want to do yourself and your child the favor of becoming familiar with this area.

3. Quality of Teachers

The quality of staff that will be caring and educating your children is the most important area to investigate when deciding which center is best for your family. Teachers come with many different levels of backgrounds and qualifications. We feel strongly about training and core competence in early education. Ongoing training is important as new ideas within the industry are always being developed. When touring a center ask if the Teachers in the center have a formal training program, and if it is ongoing and how it is administered.

Additionally, ask questions to see what teachers have state required certifications such as CPR, Universal Precautions, and Required Education. This will give you an idea of each teachers experience and qualifications. Each are equally important when making a decision of which center will be best for your child.

4. Transitions of children

Transitional times can come with anxiety for children and parents alike. Graduating from one room to another is exciting yet if handled inappropriately can cause anxiety for parents and children. Children become comfortable with their surroundings very quickly, familiar toys, familiar faces and routines are important for children to feel safe and secure in their environment especially for younger children. Graduating to a new room with unfamiliar faces and routines can cause unnecessary stress for not only the child moving into the room but for children who are welcoming the new child. When touring a center ask questions about how the center handles transitions from one room to another. Children should have a period of time that they are allowed to become acquainted to the new teachers, children and surrounding of their new room so that transitions are made smoothly and with as little disruptions as possible.

5. Meals

The meals that are provided for your child is a very important part of your child's care. Nutrition is important to children's development physically and mentally. Children that do not receive the necessary nutrition can become tired, irritable, and unable to focus. This is a problem when your child is learning and developing new skills. Additionally food allergies have increased dramatically. Today nearly 3 million children in the U.S. suffer from food allergies; the most common is peanut allergies. According to the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network, the number of children that suffer peanut allergies has doubled since the year 1997. High quality centers are increasingly creating policies that prohibit food from outside sources in the center. Schools that allow food to be brought in by parents to be fed to the children cannot control what a parent may pack in a child's lunch or what ingredients the food was prepared with. Children often share amongst other little friends thereby increasing the risk for a child ingesting an ingredient they are allergic to. When touring a center ask questions about how food allergies are handled, or if the school is "Peanut Free." Also ask what the policy is for parents that may want to bring in "cupcakes" or other goodies from the outside for the class. You may also ask for a copy of the menu and to tour the kitchen where your child's food will be prepared.

6. Open Door Policies

Parents sometimes may want to visit their child while at school, and for the most part this is encouraged by most quality centers. Parents are away from their children for a good part of the day, so some parents may choose to drop by to visit their child unannounced. This in most cases can be a positive experience for the child. Each child is different, and some may find that this has a more negative effect on the child than a positive one. Parents should take this into consideration when frequently visiting their child as the child often finds that the day quickly travels by, until they see “Mom” or “Dad” and then don’t understand why they didn’t pick them up to go home. Although parents should be conscious of how this is affecting their child and his/her class, they should always feel welcomed to be able to visit their child at any time during the day. Being a High-Quality center sometimes involves caring for parents needs as well, being away from your children can sometimes be difficult, so being able to come see your child at any time is important. When touring a center ask what the policies are for visiting the center. Also did the center require that you setup an appointment to come tour the center. This could be a concern as to why prior notice is needed and can often raise more questions such as what the Director may be trying to conceal.

7. Management of Center

The overall care and quality that you will find in a center can often be attributed to how well the center is being run. The management that is onsite running the overall operation of the school is important to the level of care you and your child will receive. Another important factor is the ownership of a center. Large corporations, Franchises, etc operate differently than a local ownership can. Local ownership often can make quick decisions to change something that is not working within the operation of the center, whereas a Franchise or larger corporation will take months or sometimes years to resolve an issue that is recurring. When touring a center ask the Director questions surrounding their experience, and if they were ever a teacher in a classroom. This helps the Director to better understand how a class operates rather than just theoretically. Ask if the center is owned by a Franchise, a Corporation, or individually owned and who you would speak to in the event that you wanted to go above the Directors level of Management.

8. School vs. Daycare Center

Most people refer to centers as “Daycare” but the fact is that there is a distinct difference between “Daycare” and “School.” Centers that operate as a “Daycare” primarily care for the children according to State Guidelines as outlined by State Licensing. Daycare centers typically do not have a formal curriculum or an overall outline for the children to learn from an educational standpoint. Their primary focus is to simply care for the children while the parents are away. Centers that operate as a School don’t only care for the children but also provide a formal education to the children as well. Education begins from birth and although the primary focus for an infant should be loving and being nurtured, it is also important to realize that infants can learn many things that will begin the process of stimulating their minds for future learning. Older age groups will find that learning is fun and is often done through Play or Art, while being provided a formal curriculum for learning skills that will send them off to

traditional school with the necessary tools to be successful in school. According to the U.S. Dept of Education, children who attend a formalized center that provides education are more likely to enter traditional schools with acceptable reading scores as opposed to children who did not receive a formal Early Education. When touring a center ask about the ways the children are taught. Ask if there is a formal educational curriculum. Look in the rooms to see if you are seeing examples of the children learning by looking at Art projects, and other items in the room. Ask the Director to explain how the children are cared for as well as what the children are currently learning in the class. You will be paying a handsome price for the care of your child. Make sure that you are also providing your child the gift of an early education in the process.

9. Playgrounds

Playgrounds are an extension of the classroom. Children also learn through play and by new experiences. Playgrounds are a place where seeing, hearing and smelling new things are a part of the learning experience. Most of us, even as adults can remember some experiences of being on the playground as young children. New experiences of sand, clay, water, toys, climbing, and sharing time with little friends is all a part of a child's learning experience. When touring a center ask to see the playgrounds where your child will be playing. Ask the Director who is touring you to explain some of the activities that are facilitated on the playground such as Water experience day, Insect explorations, etc. Also ask what activities are facilitated on days of inclement weather or months that daylight is scarce.

10. Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

As a parent one of the most important decisions that you may ever make is where to place your child for preschool. It is important to do your research and to ask all the necessary questions to make sure that your child is in a caring environment where they will excel physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. Going into the tour with more knowledge will help you to ask the right questions so that you can make the best possible decision. This will help you to make sure your child is placed in a center that provides the best care and education that your child deserves. Prior to touring a center write down a list of items that are important to you and your child. Being prepared will take the stress out of searching for the right center and will enable you to know that your child is in the best place for him, her and your family.

We hope that you find the above information useful in your search for a High-Quality Center for your child. By following some of the tips in this report you will have a much easier time selecting the right school for your child and thereby saving yourself the high level of stress that often accompanies looking for a new center. If you would like additional information or have questions, please feel free to call any **Premier Christian Academy** Director at any location of your choice. or visit our website at www.PremierChristianAcademy.com for more information



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