

Educators, this is a small sample of what you will get when you order this Parent Guide. We know that when you see the scope and value of the information you can receive, you'll want to order the entire Parent Guide. See back page for ordering details.



How to Choose the Best Preschool or Day Care For Your Child

One of a series of Parent Guides from



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How do I start my search for a quality day care or preschool?

Here are some good ways to search for quality day care or a preschool:

- Ask your friends and neighbors for their recommendations. They may have children currently enrolled or children who have just recently passed those years.
- Ask your pediatrician to direct you to appropriate facilities.
- Ask the principal at your local elementary school for recommendations.
- Your state or local government office of social services may be able to provide you with a list of care providers or preschools, or refer you to the appropriate agency responsible for regulating day care. The names of such offices will vary by state or region. You can start by calling the main government number of your state capital and asking them to refer you to the day care division of your state government.
- Explore the Internet. Often, going to the main Web site of a local or state government will lead you to links to the government's various agencies, including the day care agency.
- Contact the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This non-profit group has as its mission to ensure that someday all young children will receive only the highest-quality care. To contact the NAEYC through the Internet, go to www.naeyc.org, call 1-800-424-2460 or write to: National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1509 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036-1426.

Should I be concerned about whether a care provider or preschool is licensed or accredited?

A licensed center or school has met state and/or local regulations for safety, cleanliness and other concerns. An accredited center or preschool has also met other standards of quality such as adequate facilities, qualified staff and an approved curriculum.

How can I narrow my search?

Once you have prepared a list of possible opportunities for your child, it is time to call each provider to ask some preliminary questions and to set up a time for an interview with those that appear promising.

Preliminary phone calls will save you time by eliminating those that do not have openings or do not seem to meet your needs. By setting up an interview time in advance, you can be assured that the director, or other staff member who meets with you, has adequate time to show you the facility and answer all your questions.



Even though you have set up your initial interview in advance, it is most important that the care provider you choose has a policy that allows parents to drop in, unannounced, at any time. And you should do that both before making a final decision and also at intervals once you have placed your child in a day care center or preschool. This helps you get a more accurate idea of what is happening during the time your child is away from you.

Other Parent Guides Available From The Parent Institute®

Educators,

Like the other 24 titles, this Parent Guide is a concise summary of the latest and best information on this topic as you help parents help their children to succeed in school and life. The topics were chosen based on the most frequently requested learning topics from educators and parents. Formatted for the busy parent in mind, they are full of no-nonsense, easy-to-implement, practical ideas that have been proven to work. The complete list of titles is below:

10 Great Ways to Teach Children Responsibility
25 Ways You Can Put the Power of Routines to Work for You and Your Child
52 Great Ways Families Can Spend Time Together
Developmental Milestones for Preschool Children—Is My Child on Track?
Preparing Your Child for Reading Success—Birth to Age Five
How to Choose the Best Preschool or Day Care for Your Child
Common Discipline Problems of Preschoolers and How to Solve Them
37 Experiences Every Child Should Have Before Starting School
Getting Your Child Ready for Kindergarten
The Road to Reading Success—Elementary School Years
Common Discipline Problems of Elementary Schoolers and How to Solve Them
31 Alternatives to TV and Video Games for Your Elementary School Child
Give Your Child the Edge: 10 Teachers' Learning Secrets Parents Can Use
How to Help Children Do Their Best on Tests
Helping Children Get Organized for Homework and Schoolwork
Help Your Child Develop Good Learning Styles
How to Instill the Character Traits of Success in Your Child
Seven Proven Ways to Motivate Children to Do Better in School
Help Your Child Deal With Bullies and Bullying
Help Your Child Deal With Peer Pressure
How to Help Your Struggling Student
Common Discipline Problems of Teenagers and How to Solve Them
What to Do If Your Child Has ADD/ADHD
Common Discipline Problems of Middle School Children and How to Solve Them
Making a Smooth Transition to Middle School

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