

Quality Preschool Checklist

A handy checklist to assist your family in finding the best program in which your child can learn and grow



NEW HORIZON
PROGRAM 1
PROGRAM 2

Interactions

- Are the teachers affectionate, responsive, and sensitive to the children?
- Does the center have a policy or philosophy on guidance and discipline?

Family Involvement

- Are there both written and verbal communication between the teacher and the parent regarding the child's day?
- Is parent input welcome?
- Are families able to visit at any time and encouraged to participate in activities?
- Do the teachers use an electronic communication system to share information and photos with families on a daily basis?

Curriculum

- Does the program have daily or weekly lesson plans that include a variety of activities—art, music, outdoor play, reading, dramatic play, science, and math?
- Do children experience hands-on activities?
- Does the curriculum target the physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and literacy and language aspects of development?
- Does the program use sign language with younger children?
- Is there a balance between child-initiated and teacher-directed activities?

Licensing and Accreditation

- Does the school have a positive reputation in the community?
- In addition to state licensing, is the center nationally accredited by NAEYC or NECPA?

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Child Assessment

- Does the curriculum include an assessment of the child's development?
- Is the assessment tool a comprehensive system using areas of development?
- Is the tool an observation-based assessment which incorporates predictors of school-readiness?
- Are parent-teacher conferences offered allowing parents to visit with the child's teacher in a focused way about the child's development and progress and to develop shared plans for educating and caring for the child?

Teacher Qualifications

- Do the teachers each have experience in caring for children and a minimum of an early childhood credential or higher degree?
- Are the teachers expected to receive ongoing professional training?
- Does the center have long-term staff and teachers employed?

Health & Safety and Physical Environment

- Are the children properly supervised at all times?
- Are the exterior entrances locked to prevent unauthorized access to the classrooms?
- Are policies and procedures in place to keep children safe (entrance security system, handwashing policies, administration of medication policy, etc.)?
- Are the classrooms clean, safe, and hazard-free?
- Do the meals and snacks meet USDA Child and Adult Food Program guidelines?
- Are there defined learning areas (learning centers) in the classroom?