



How to Find the Best Child Care Center

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You want a "gut reaction" that this place feels good....***NO!*** You must look for a center that will encourage your child's development and help them prepare for school mentally, socially and emotionally. ***Do your research now!***

****Identify your priorities*** – location- near work, hours-open early & close late, safety, licensed facility or affordability.

****Where do you start?*** ...

****Do your research:***

- 1) Teacher/Child ratio – count the children when you visit.
- 2) Education of staff and is the center accredited?
- 3) Is this a Christian based facility?
- 4) Focus on learning & development with a strong curriculum in science & math.
- 5) Safe & healthy environment, do they promote physical activity?
- 6) Nutrition for your child with cooked meals and balanced menus.
- 7) What is the Summer Curriculum...educational , affordable AND fun?

****Visit the centers WITHOUT an appointment*** and ask your preliminary questions. Meet with the center's director or owner. Follow your nose...does it smell clean? Get on the floor if you have an infant or toddler. You are interviewing this center for your precious child. Make sure to visit several times and different times of the day.

****Kid Test the Center:***

- 1) Is the staff polite and professional to your child? Do they introduce themselves to you *and* your child.
- 2) Are the rooms inviting to your child? Toys, fun noise, colorful, plenty of educational toys and happy...
- 3) Observe the staff closely.
- 4) Does your child want to come back to that center or not want to leave after the tour?

****Second Time Visit:***

- 1) Is the director at the center?
- 2) See the playground and make sure it is safe and fun.
- 3) Check out the written curriculum of your child's class and their daily schedule.
- 4) Observe their teacher one more time for good measure.
- 5) What is in the classroom? Art, learning curriculum, centers, or educational toys.
- 6) What type of security system and measures does this center have?
- 7) What extra curriculum is available...Spanish, Sign Language, Cooking, or Music class?
- 8) Does the center have an "Open Door Policy" that allows you to enter at any time?
- 9) Is the center clean, professional, educational, and just what you and your child need? Does the center have

high standards and a desire to improve? If not, keep on searching and you will find a happy place for you and your child.