



# PRESCHOOL CHECKLIST

Choosing a preschool is a big step for your family. Over the years, we've visited local programs, talked with educators, and heard from many parents about what matters most. Here are a few things to consider as you make your decision.

## ★ THE OVERALL FEEL

- Does the classroom feel warm, calm, and welcoming?
  - Do the children seem engaged and comfortable?
    - Could you picture your child here?
    - Do you feel comfortable asking questions?

*First impressions aren't everything — but they do matter.*



## 👤 THE TEACHERS

- What training, certifications, or degrees do the teachers have?
  - How long have they been at the school?
  - What is the student-to-teacher ratio?
- How do they handle big emotions or conflicts between children?

*Consistent, qualified teachers make a lasting difference in early childhood experiences.*

## 🎓 LEARNING STYLE & KINDERGARTEN READINESS

- Is the program play-based, academic, Montessori, faith-based, or blended?
  - How are early literacy and math introduced?
- Will children practice listening, following directions, and sitting for short periods?

*There isn't one "right" approach — it depends on your child and what kind of transition to kindergarten you're hoping for.*

## 🕒 THE PRACTICAL DETAILS

- Do the hours and calendar realistically fit your family's schedule?
- Is tuition clear, including any additional fees?
  - Is before/after care available if needed?
- What does the enrollment timeline look like?

## 📞 COMMUNICATION & FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

- How will you hear about your child's day and progress?
  - Are conferences offered?
- Do you feel like the school values parent partnership?

CREATED BY SUSQUEHANNA KIDS, INFORMED BY CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL EDUCATORS AND ALIGNED WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD BEST PRACTICES.



Looking for local preschool options?  
Browse our Preschool Guide at  
[SusquehannaKids.com/preschool-listing](https://SusquehannaKids.com/preschool-listing)

