



## 11 Tips for Choosing a Preschool

Your child has many dreams. As preschool teachers, we have the honor of hearing and fostering these dreams. “I want to be a Police Officer.” “I want to be a Teacher. I want to be a Doctor.” There are many amazing things your child will grow up and do. It is important that you choose a preschool that is going to support you in fostering a love for learning so that your child believes it is possible to achieve their great dreams. Your child’s teachers and preschool experience will play a pivotal role in developing the foundation and confidence they need to discover their dreams.

We have created a report to help parents choose the best preschool for their child. We hope that you find these *11 Tips for Choosing a Preschool* to be helpful and valuable as you make this important decision.

### **Tip #1: Curriculum is crucial.**

It is important to know the type of curriculum the preschool will be using in their teaching. The school system has transitioned the reading curriculum to the Common Core Language Arts “Reading Wonders”. You will want to be sure that your child’s preschool is aware of this transition and making the necessary adjustments to their teaching so that your child will ultimately be prepared for elementary school. If your child begins using the Reading Wonders curriculum in preschool to learn letter recognition, letter sounds and the body motion associated with each letter, then they will be well prepared when they get into Kindergarten. You might want to ask your child’s Preschool Director how they educate their team of teachers, and change their curriculum to stay current with the latest cutting edge teaching techniques. It takes a lot of effort to stay up to date with curriculum changes, but well worth the effort when you hear about the success of your previous students. Be sure the right curriculum is being used at your child’s preschool to start planting the appropriate seeds for success at the preschool level.



**Tip #2: Care for the whole child.**

Your child's early education should be focused on the whole child. Whole child learning is the idea that your child's educational experience should help them develop all their intellectual abilities. Howard Gardner, a professor at Harvard University, states that we have multiple intelligences, such as linguistic/verbal, logical/mathematical, visual/spatial, body/kinesthetic, interpersonal and intrapersonal. Many school settings focus on developing the student's linguistic, mathematical and logical intelligences. Phenomenal preschools understand that each child has multiple types of intelligences. This makes their educational focus for your whole child, not just parts. Choose a preschool that cares for your whole child.

**Tip #3: Socializing to success.**

Socialization skills are foundational to lifetime of success. Providing your child with experiences to learn to socialize and interact with peers will help them greatly. Interpersonal skills and the ability to understand others, is hopefully a focus of your child's preschool teachers. Teachers have the unique opportunity to guide child through the process of learning interpersonal skills. This is not an easy task and requires great awareness on the teacher's part, but is crucial for your child's preschool education.

**Tip #4: Routine is fun.**

Look for a preschool with a daily schedule that is full of fun but has intentional structure and routine. The daily schedule at a preschool should be organized, outlined and followed by the teachers. The consistency of the same schedule and routine helps a child feel safe and secure. When they know what to expect in a schedule, they feel safe to explore and confidently try new activities. Routine should not mean dull or boring. You and your child should experience that an organized schedule is more full of fun learning experiences than a disorganized schedule. Many kindergarten teachers wish their students were more prepared to engage in this type of organized schedule. Your child will be well prepared for elementary school if they are able to learn to experience a routine in preschool. The routine and structure of a well-organized preschool will allow your child the opportunity to stretch their imagination and grow their confidence to reach their dreams.

**Tip #5: Amazing themes.**

Look for amazing themes that engage all your child's senses and intellect. As we discussed earlier, Harvard professor Howard Gardner, informs us that we all multiple

types of intelligences. In order for your child to receive the best preschool education they need to be in a school that provides multiple modes of learning to ensure all their intelligences have a chance to grow. One of the best ways to foster this growth is through the use of monthly themes in the classroom and learning. Monthly themes not only help your child not get bored with the daily schedule, but also provide tons of different ways to learn. Themes engage all the child's senses. Monthly themes allow your child to touch, taste, smell, hear and see learning in action, which engages all their multiple intelligences. When you walk into a preschool you will hopefully be able to see from the decorations that the students are learning a particular theme.

**Tip #6: Physical activity and movement are important.**

Make sure your child's preschool allows them to experience fitness and movement. Fitness and movement is crucial for the total health of your child. It is important that your child's preschool has lots of movement activities. Look around and see if you can find areas where your child is free and encouraged to move, jump, run and tumble. You will want to be sure that your child will have the chance to be physically active when they are at preschool. Fitness and movement should be important parts of the curriculum and schedule to ensure your child grows in every area.



**Tip #7: Growing great communicators.**

Effective communication is essential to future successes. When people learn to communicate, they are able to create so many different possibilities for their lives. Your child's preschool should have strategies to teach and reinforce positive communication skills. Make sure that your child is encouraged in a loving manner to communicate their needs, find solution for their problems and share their thoughts and feelings. Teachers should be very intentional about listening to your child when they communicate. Great listening teachers foster great communicators.

**Tip #8: Small group learning leads to confidence.**

Make sure your child will have a time in small group learning. Small group centers, as it is called in educational preschool world, is a time that the children and their teacher are engaged in activities that challenge growth. They will have focused learning time to achieve the educational milestones of preschool. The small group aspect also allows for the students to learn to interact as team and encourage each other as they learn new skills. Student's confidence increases greatly when they learn a new skill and their peers and teachers immediately congratulate them on their success. Small group learning is

something your child will experience when they are in elementary school, so it benefits them greatly to learn how to interact in a small group in preschool.

**Tip #9: Be part of a world changing community.**

All humans long to be part of a community, a team, a tribe or a group. Your child's preschool can be one of the communities in your life. You should look for a preschool that treats you and your child special. Find a preschool that is intentionally trying to have positive impact in the lives of people in order to help the world be a more positive, loving place. This is the type of school would be a great community for your family to be part of.

**Tip #10: Core values guide the school.**

We all have some types of core values that dictate our behaviors. Core values are things like love, patience, always try to do our best, positive outlook and the golden rule. Great schools have taken the time to develop core values for their organization and team. Your preschool should have written core values that they use to guide their behaviors and actions. Respect people may be a core value a preschool chooses to use to dictate how they treat their team, students and parents. You may want to make sure these core values are in alignment with your core values.



**Tip #11: Be involved in your child's education.**

Parental involvement is so important. Your child's preschool should have a very welcoming, open door policy which allows you to come into the classroom. Children love when their parents are part of their education experience. Make sure your preschool has special events throughout the year that intentionally focus on the parent-child relationship. Some fun events that involve parents are Dads-n-Doughnuts, Mother's Day Tea and holiday parties. Make sure you are included and communicated with regarding your child's education.

To sign up for a tour or free trial day at Little Diamonds Preschool  
Call (925) 516-6619 or [www.littlediamondspreschool.com](http://www.littlediamondspreschool.com).

