

Toddler Program Checklist

Toddlers are at the cusp of a learning explosion. That makes finding the best early education program an extremely important decision. Our checklist has been created by the experts: parents along with education and child development specialists with inside knowledge of what a toddler needs to succeed. Read through to find all the information you'll need to choose the right place for you, your family, and your child.

Regular Communication

- ☐ Is there daily communication about each child's day?
- ☐ Are parent-teacher conferences held to discuss each child's development?

Great Environments for Toddlers

- ☐ Is there a variety of materials and toys—including natural and everyday home materials—for children of all levels to explore?
- ☐ Are indoor and outdoor environments child sized and designed specially for children of all developmental abilities and needs?
- ☐ Are there defined areas of learning in the classroom for math, language, and science experiences? Are those areas labeled with both words and pictures?

Health and Safety

- ☐ How is the spread of germs prevented?
Are all surfaces disinfected throughout the day and at closing?
- ☐ Is the center professionally cleaned daily?
- ☐ What snacks are provided throughout the day?
Is there a menu?
- ☐ What are the security policies and emergency procedures and how are they monitored and evaluated regularly?
- ☐ Is there an open door policy? Can a parent call or visit any time she wants?
- ☐ What is the illness policy?
- ☐ Does the center have a secure entrance?
- ☐ Do teachers have the required training and certification in CPR, first aid, and infection control?



Toddler Program Checklist

Programs to Learn and Thrive

- ☐ What is the program's daily routine and is it displayed for the children?
- ☐ Is there a toddler curriculum? Ask to see an example of activities planned.
- ☐ How will the center help you continue what your child is learning there at home?
- ☐ How are children's self-help skills fostered?
- ☐ Are there opportunities for parents to meet together and be involved as a group?
- ☐ What is the program's approach to discipline?
- ☐ What if children are not on the "toddler schedule" when they begin at the center?
- ☐ Which activities/enrichments are included in the tuition and which are an additional cost?
- ☐ Is there a process for preparing parents and children for their first day at the center?
- ☐ Are children happily and busily engaged in interesting and diverse activities and projects?
- ☐ Do you see displays of what the children are doing and learning?
- ☐ How does the center work with children as they progress through the stages of potty training/readiness to train?



Loving and Professional Staff

- ☐ Do children have a consistent group of primary teachers? How long have they been at the center?
- ☐ Do teachers interact with children in caring, respectful, and positive ways? Do you see one-to-one conversation with eye contact?
- ☐ How will teachers challenge all skill levels at the same time?

