

Choosing the Best Care for your Pre-School Child

Produced with Support from Pikes Peak United Way



Quality early childhood education isn't costly.....
IT'S PRICELESS!

Preschoolers are Young Explorers!

Preschoolers learn by doing—through repeated interactions with objects and people, they develop physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually—learning to make sense of their world. Although it may look like “just playing” to adults, a thoughtfully arranged environment for preschoolers provides countless opportunities for age-appropriate and individualized learning.

When choosing a preschool program you'll want to see:

- Adults who are warm, caring, and supportive of preschooler's growing independence
- Staff who talk frequently with individual children, at their eye level
- Staff who support and encourage children to resolve their own conflicts
- The environment is arranged to encourage self-help skills and independence—toys kept on low shelves, step stools, child sized equipment, supplies for cleaning up spills available, etc
- Large blocks of free time are available for self-chosen activities from among a variety of interest centers
- The focus is on creative exploration with art materials rather than copying a model
- Daily large motor play, indoors and outdoors
- Daily rest time, with quiet activities for those who don't nap or wake early
- Many opportunities for language learning—books, songs, fingerplays, conversations with adults and stories
- Positive guidance techniques are used including redirection, consistent clear rules, and logical consequences. “Time-out” is not over used
- Adults support and encourage developing social skills—sharing, taking turns, etc.
- Materials attractively arranged and accessible including blocks, puzzles and other manipulatives, books and tapes, art supplies, dolls, dress-up clothes and furniture, sand and water play, science materials
- Predictable routines alternate between active and quieter activities

You'll want to question when you see:

- Unsupervised play or frequent use of TV or videotapes
- Children required to sit quietly in large group activities for long periods of time
- Children required to sit quietly coloring or doing paper and pencil tasks
- All children expected to do the same activity at the same time
- All children required to nap for a set time
- Physical punishment



To Find Quality Child Care Call 1.877.338.2273 or Visit www.qualistar.org Today!