



# CHOOSING YOUR CHILD CARE CHECKLIST

Choosing the right care for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make. Research tells us that children's brains are rapidly developing between infancy and age five. A child's healthy development depends on positive, engaging experiences during these early years of life. It is important to explore your options.

1. Ask family, friends and coworkers to recommend local high-quality providers.
2. Visit each school's website to learn more about their programs.
3. Once you've developed a short list of top choices visit the center and take a tour.

TOPIC	THINGS TO CONSIDER	LADYBIRD	SCHOOL #2	SCHOOL #3
School Name				
<b>BASIC INFO</b>				
Location	How close is it to your home?			
	How close is it to your work?			
Hours	What are the operating hours?	<b>6:30a – 6:30p</b>		
Tuition	What are the tuition prices?			
	Are there different fees for different ages?	<b>Yes</b>		
	Do fees include breakfast, lunch and/or snacks?	<b>Yes</b>		
	Are there discounts for siblings?	<b>Yes</b>		
	Is there a discount for military service?	<b>Yes</b>		
	Are there any extra fees – registration fee, supply fees, late fees?	<b>Yes</b>		
	Does tuition cover any enrichment programs (i.e. art studio, dramatic play, computer lab and foreign languages?)	<b>Yes</b>		
Quality	Is the school part of a larger regional organization?	<b>Yes</b>		
	If so, does the organization have a quality assurance program?	<b>Yes</b>		
	How often is the school evaluated to ensure quality and consistency?	<b>Monthly</b>		
Accreditation	Is the school registered? Licensed? Accredited?	<b>Yes</b>		
	Who is the Accrediting organization?	<b>APPLE / NECPA</b>		
Teacher Ratio	What is the teacher/student ratio? <b>Look for low ratios.</b>			
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>				
Security	What are the school's policies related to safety?			
	Are the doors leading to main hallways always locked?	<b>Yes</b>		
	Is the front reception desk always staffed?			
	Does the school have biometric checking in and out?	<b>Yes</b>		
	Are the playground spaces securely fenced?	<b>Yes</b>		
Health & Nutrition	Is hand washing encouraged?	<b>Yes</b>		
	Are toys, books and furniture in good shape?			
	Are medicines and cleaners locked away?	<b>Yes</b>		
	Does the school provide a healthy nutritious meal plan?	<b>Yes</b>		
<b>CURRICULUM</b>				
Goals & Philosophy	Does the philosophy fit with your values?			
	Is the curriculum research based?	<b>Yes, ABEKA</b>		
	Does the curriculum prepare for elementary school, academically and socially/emotionally?	<b>Yes</b>		
	Is each child's development tracked and shared with parents on a regular basis.	<b>Yes</b>		
Subjects	Are Math, Science, Reading, Writing, Foreign Languages and Art taught as part of the every day lesson plans?	<b>Yes</b>		
Enrichment Learning	Does the school have separate enrichment rooms specifically designed to teach Computers and Technology, Reading, Art and Crafts and Dramatic Play?	<b>Yes</b>		
Field Trips	Are in house field trips provided? If so, how often?	<b>Yes, Monthly</b>		
	Are field trips included in the tuition?	<b>Yes</b>		
Pre-K	Does the school offer VPK only and VPK Wrap programs?	<b>Yes</b>		
Infants & Toddlers	Does the school use sign language in the infant and toddler classrooms?	<b>Yes</b>		
Physical Activity	Is physical activity an important part of every day activities?	<b>Yes</b>		
	Do the children have regular outdoor sessions?	<b>Yes</b>		

