



SELECTING A SUITABLE PRESCHOOL

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Our early childhood (EC) educators share tips on selecting a suitable preschool!

It is good to:

- Know your child's needs
- Know your preference to child development & care
- Visit the preschool
- Speak to the principal & EC educators

Indicators of centre quality

<p>Licence Tenure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did you check the licence tenure? Range of licence tenures: 6, 12, 24 or 36 months. • A longer tenure means a better-performing centre in its provision of quality early childhood development services. 	<p>SPARK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the preschool display a SPARK banner, plaque and certificate? • SPARK certification is an endorsement of the quality of a preschool.
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Location

- Consider a preschool close to home or convenient for drop off/ pick up.
- This reduces stress for everyone in daily shuttling.



Financial Considerations

- Know the programme fee structure. Does it fall within your budget?
- Are there any additional costs involved? (e.g. transport cost)
- Are there any withdrawal, refund and termination policies?



Parent-Centre Partnerships

- What are the preschool's communication channels with parents?
- Are there opportunities for parents to be involved in children's learning?



Learning Environment

<p>Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the environment conducive for learning & play? • Are there sufficient facilities & resources to support your child's learning and play? • Are there any outdoor play areas? 	<p>Nutrition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If food is provided, ask for a copy of the menu. • Is the preschool awarded the Healthy Food Award by Health Promotion Board? • If your child has food allergies, are food alternatives available?
<p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the environment child-safe & child-friendly? • Check that outsiders should not be able to access the class rooms easily. 	<p>Hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the preschool clean & hygienic? This prevents the spread of diseases. • What are the preschool's procedures in handling contagious diseases (e.g. Hand Foot Mouth Disease)? (e.g. stomach flu, Hand Foot Mouth Disease)



Curriculum and Programme

- Is the preschool's philosophy & teaching approach suitable for your child?
- What is the programme flow? Request for a copy of the time table.
- Is the curriculum holistic, age-appropriate & values the interests of your child?



Teaching Staff

- Are interactions & communication between children and EC educators warm & respectful?
- How is learning facilitated in the classroom?
- Are the children happily engaged in activities?
- What is the educator to child ratio?
A desirable ratio encourages positive & supportive interactions, and boosts children's learning & development.

Searching for infant care services? Here are more tips!

Environment

- Is there a demarcated area catered for actively mobile infants & infants not yet ready to be mobile?
- Younger infants are usually in a sleep-on-back position. Are the ceiling lights in the infant care room glaring?
- Is there a good range of motor skills facilities (e.g. play gyms and mirrors) to engage the infants?

Infant Educators

- Do infant educators make eye contact and play with the infants?
- Are the relationships between the infant educators and infants warm and reciprocal?
- How many infants does each educator take care of?



Special thanks to the following early childhood educators:

Debbie Ong, Principal, MY World @Tenteram Peak	Lynne Zheng, Principal, MY World @ Boon Keng
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The Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) serves as the regulatory and developmental authority for the early childhood sector in Singapore.

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