



5 Essential Questions

to Ask When Touring a Childcare Center



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Choosing a childcare center is one of the most important decisions you'll make for your child. This guide gives you 5 essential questions to ask when touring a childcare center—helping you feel confident in your choice. Take this guide with you on your tour and get the answers you need to make an informed decision!

What is your curriculum, and how do you support early childhood development?

Why It's Important: A well-rounded curriculum is key to preparing your child for school and life. You want a program that balances structured learning with play, creativity, and social development.

Bonus Tip: Ask how teachers support different learning styles and how they track children's progress!

3 How do you communicate with parents about their child's day?

Why It's Important: A strong parent-teacher partnership helps ensure your child's success. Consistent communication keeps you informed and engaged in your child's learning journey.

Bonus Tip: Ask if they send photos or videos during the day to help you feel connected while you're away!

5 How do you handle transitions and support emotional development?

Why It's Important: Transitions—such as drop-offs, nap time, or moving to the next age group—can be challenging for young children. A great childcare center supports these moments with care and consistency.

Bonus Tip: Ask how they help children adjust to the first few weeks and what strategies they use for separation anxiety.

What safety and security measures do you have in place?

Why It's Important: Your child's safety is the top priority. Every childcare center should have strict policies in place to ensure a secure environment.

Bonus Tip: Ask if the center offers an app for updates on your child's day. If they have live cameras, what are the safety protocols to prevent hacking or unwanted viewers?

What are your teacher qualifications and staff-to-child ratios?

Why It's Important: Experienced, caring teachers create a nurturing and stimulating learning environment. Lower staff-to-child ratios mean more individualized attention.

Bonus Tip: Ask about staff training in first aid, CPR, and child development best practices.

Parent's Tour Checklist

While visiting a childcare center, keep this checklist handy to help guide your observations:

- Are children engaged, happy, and interacting with teachers?
- Is the facility clean, organized, & child-friendly?
- What are the outdoor / indoor play areas like?
- · How are meals and snacks handled?
- Does the environment feel welcoming?
- Do the teachers seem attentive and passionate about early childhood education?



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