

What Should You Look For When Visiting A School?

School: _____ Address: _____

Principal: _____ Phone number: _____

Website: _____

All parents are encouraged to visit kindergarten classrooms at least once before entering kindergarten. Please contact the school to schedule a time for a visit.

With your child in mind, think about the following areas as you observe the classroom:

The language used by the teacher:

How many steps are given at one time in the directions?

What types of words might my child be expected to understand?

The language used by the children:

How long are their sentences?

What types of words do they use and understand?

Behavior of the children:

How long might my child be expected to sit still in a group?

How much independence is expected? (i.e., When going to the bathroom? In caring for materials?)

What do you observe that promotes independence?

What are the "classroom rules"?

What is the schedule of the day?

What Should You Look For When Visiting A School? *continued*

Classroom Interactions:

What type of work is being completed by the children?

How are children interacting with each other?

What modifications are being used by the teacher to accommodate individual children?

Roles of adults in the program:

What are the roles/expectations for parents, teachers, support staff?

Decide which of these things matter to you most and fill in the blanks just for those topics.

Number of classes per grade (How many 1st grade classrooms?):

Total # of children in the school:

Class size and teacher/student ratio:

Are there any aides, volunteers, student teachers?

Hours of the school day:

What is the school's mission statement?

Does the school have any specialties or curriculum enrichment?



What Should You Look For When Visiting A School? *continued*

What are your observations about the following:

Facilities?

Playground?

Gym?

Cafeteria/auditorium?

Library?

School appearance and atmosphere?

The office staff?

The teachers?

The principal?



What Should You Look For When Visiting A School? *continued*

What after-school programming is offered? (Don't forget to ask about cost, hours, transportation?)

What is the school's discipline policy or strategies?

What is the school's level of diversity?

Is there an English Language Acquisition (ELA) Program?

What are the school's opportunities for parental involvement?

