

Choosing a Pre-School

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It's back to school time, even for the little ones. Here on 10 Tips on choosing a pre-school or nursery school from Tracey Frost Rensky, CEO & Co-Founder of Citibabes & CitiSchool, Mother and Parenting Expert.



- 1. Explore Local Neighborhood Schools** – Be realistic about travel time and schedules. Preschool is a real commitment, so make sure the commute works for the whole family.
- 2. Decide If Teaching Style Matters** - Montessori vs. Unstructured? Traditional or Progressive? Understand your child's strengths and weaknesses and find a program that addresses both.
- 3. Curriculum Types** – Figure out what additional class offerings are important to you and look into what kind of the extracurricular activities, like cooking or movement classes, the school offers.
- 4. Overall School Philosophy** – Find out if it is synch with your own philosophies. How do you feel about holidays- is it important that they are celebrated? Are you okay with inclusionary programs catering to special needs children?
- 5. How Do The Teachers Behave/How Do You Feel In The Space** – Look for teachers that are warm, energetic and passionate about teaching and children. Also, look for a great space that is bright, clean, cheerful and welcoming. If you feel comfortable in a space, there is a strong chance your child will too.
- 6. Does The School Promote Open Communication** – Find out how much communication the school encourages you to have with the teachers. A good thing to investigate is how often the parent/teacher conferences occur.
- 7. Ex-missions** – What is the school's policy? Does the school have their own contacts? Does the school assist with on-going programs? Will teachers write recommendations?
- 8. Community Strength** – Look for a school that provides a strong school community, and organizes family activities and opportunities to get involved.
- 9. Enrichment Programs** – Look into the offerings beyond the preschool. Is there a summer camp and any other weekly classes or weekend activities?
- 10. Does Education Extend Beyond The Children** – Find out if there are seminars, workshops or groups for parent education, as well as an educational/developmental specialist available to observe children and identify red flags, delays or other social/emotional issues.

For more info on Rensky's New York City schools, visit www.citibabes.com.