

Choosing Quality VPK: **A Parent's Checklist**

	PROGRAM		
	1	2	3
Do the children look happy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the children involved in activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there plenty of books and toys?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IS/ARE THE TEACHER(S):

Kind and encouraging children to explore and work independently as well as cooperatively in a group?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asking children open-ended questions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Listening/talking/playing with children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining control of the class in a positive way?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DO DAILY ROUTINES INCLUDE:

Play outdoors? How often?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A planned meal routine/schedule?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play activities for groups as well as individual play?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organized arrival and departure procedures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quiet time for children to relax?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DOES THE CLASSROOM HAVE:

Several different play areas? <i>(including areas for both active play and quiet time)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Space for children to move freely?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A safe environment? <i>(clean and orderly, with no major repair or safety problems)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child-sized furniture in good condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Real photographs, current pictures and child's artwork displayed at child's level?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IS THE OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND:

Clean, safe and with enough shade for children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fenced in?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Large enough for gross motor activities <i>(bikes, balls, climbing, running)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	PROGRAM		
	1	2	3
Organized with an area for children to sit and relax, if needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open so that a teacher can see all children playing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

WHAT TO ASK ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

Are there materials available that promote the development of literacy and reading?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there opportunities for language development?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the program provide a wide variety of music and instruments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the program emphasize nutritious food habits?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

WHAT TO ASK ABOUT SERVICES, POLICIES AND STAFF:

Is transportation provided?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are meals or snacks provided?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the program licensed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What days/hours are available for the VPK program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What are drop-off and pick-up times and policies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What is the child-to-teacher ratio? <i>(two teachers per 18 children)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How long has the VPK teacher worked there?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are references and background checks conducted on staff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are staff trained in emergency procedures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do teachers use non-threatening methods of discipline? <i>(No physical or severe methods.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How are parents informed of illness, injuries, behavior issues, eating, etc.?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the provider have written policies or information regarding:			
Their philosophy about education for young children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How teachers resolve conflicts between children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How teachers discipline children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The education and training of staff? <i>(A good program provides this information readily.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>