

“I’M SHOPPING FOR A PRESCHOOL RIGHT NOW...
WHAT ARE SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER?”

- ERIN, ROSEVILLE

the experts weigh in



**JAYME
MASSEY**

Owner
Play-School

In shopping for a preschool there are several things to consider. Most parents do not realize that there are very few college units required to work in a preschool. In fact, it is possible to not have completed a single early childhood education unit and be working as a preschool aide. It is very important to inquire about the credentials and qualifications of the preschool staff and to choose a school that has a highly qualified staff. These individuals will be working closely with your child and you will rely on them not only for the care and education of your child, but also for their professional opinions and recommendations in regards to your child’s behavior, abilities and kindergarten readiness. It is also very important to make sure that the preschool you choose is teaching kindergarten readiness skills. Prior to the start of kindergarten your children will take part in a kindergarten readiness assessment at their school to evaluate your child’s skills. You want to make sure that your child has had a meaningful preschool experience. My opinion is that the best approach in preschool education is an academic and play based curriculum. Children learn through play, yet they are so very capable of learning necessary academic skills. If they are taught academics in a play based curriculum they will be able to flourish. The preschool you choose should be a nice blend of both approaches to preschool education.



**KATI
HENRY**

Director
Community Christian
Preschool

Shopping for a preschool can be a daunting task. Here are a few simple guidelines to help narrow your search for the perfect school for you and your child. First, you want to select a school that matches your philosophy and educational goals for your child. Develop a list of qualities which are important to you and look for a school which also values those same ideals. Ask friends, family or neighbors about schools they may know about. Find out what they like about the school. Ask about the teachers and the rest of the staff. If a school enjoys a good reputation in the community you can add them to a list of schools to visit. Call and make an appointment to visit the schools you want to pursue. Come equipped with a list of questions which will help you make your decision. You will want to know that each teacher is qualified with early childhood education units, that the center is licensed, what the tuition is, as well as any registration fees, fundraisers and financial commitments. Once you arrive you will look for light and inviting classrooms, cleanliness, appropriate activity and happy children! Is the school in good repair? Peek at a classroom and the playground. Above all, you should have a good feeling about the school and staff



**BEV
BOS**

Director
Roseville Community
Preschool

A couple of things to keep in mind when you are searching for a preschool are that your child’s brain has the innate wisdom to tell them what it needs to be doing. So look for a place that is rich in the kinds of things a child can engage themselves in and that involve all the senses. Remember, if it hasn’t been in the hand, the body and the heart – it can’t be in the brain. The environment, inside and out, should be the equivalent of a cafeteria of opportunities for children. What you want for your child is to find a place where they can acquire experiences that they will eventually attach words to. And, in order to do that, they need to be moving. Also important is that the preschool environment be favorable to your child’s need to develop socially and emotionally – to start to make friends, negotiate with friends, and yes, makeup with friends. And the way they accomplish this is through their play. Unstructured play is the primary sculptor of the social brain. The more a child plays, the more they increase their repertoire of reactions to whatever life has to offer. This is their time to begin to experience the world and adults can assist by establishing places that are engaging, exciting, comforting, respectful and perhaps most importantly – hospitable. For this last one -- trust yourself.