



Making the Right Choice

Choosing the right child care and early education setting for your child is an important and difficult decision. Bearfoot Lodge Private School is committed to helping you make a fully informed decision about the center you choose for your child's developmental and educational needs.


Please use this complimentary quality checklist / information sheet as you visit neighboring early learning centers. The checklist provides a guideline of essential questions and criteria, ensuring a high quality learning environment for your child.

Stop in for a visit, give us a closer look and you will see why enrolling your child at **Bearfoot Lodge** is one decision you can definitely feel good about.

Center 1: Name **Bearfoot Lodge** Date Visited _____ Time _____
 Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____

Center 2: Name _____ Date Visited _____ Time _____
 Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____

Center 3: Name _____ Date Visited _____ Time _____
 Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____

Quality Checklist		Center 2	Center 3
First Impressions			
Exterior			
Does the center have a drive up appeal?			
Is the building attractive and well maintained from the outside? (window coverings, flowerbeds maintained, free of litter etc.)			
Interior			
Do you get a good feeling when you enter the center (atmosphere)?			
Is the lobby/reception area warm and inviting?			
Is there useful information displayed for families, such as a Parent Information Board, Curriculum Board etc.?			
Is there a clean smell or pleasant aroma?			
Were you greeted by office management?			
**Ask about staff retention / What is the staff turnover like?			
Common Areas			
Are the hallways and common areas attractive and appealing to children?			
Is the flooring clean?			
Director / Assistant Director			
Was the Director friendly, professional and well informed?			
Was she knowledgeable and thorough during the visit?			
Did you feel comfortable with her answers?			
Did she take the time to address your questions and comments?			
Were your needs met?			
Kitchen / Meals			
Is the menu appealing?			
Is there a morning snack, lunch and an afternoon snack provided daily?			

Quality Checklist



**Center
2**

**Center
3**

Classrooms / Curriculum Focus

Is the classroom inviting, attractive, age appropriate and appealing to children?

Are the teachers interacting with the children?

Are the children engaged in challenging and stimulating activities which promote learning?

Do the children seem happy and busy? For example music playing, children playing in the Discovery Areas, table activities set up and/or children participating in a large group activity -or- does the environment appear to be more of a babysitting service?

Is there a cubby area for children to house their coats and personal belongings?

Is the classroom broken down into a variety of learning centers? (For example; Creative Art, Home Living Center, Construction, Library Language etc.

Does the School/center have a program that focuses on the environment?

Ask about Bearfoot's Easy Going Green Program

Infant Rooms: Are the infants given individualized, quality care?

Is a **Baby Signs** sign language program available?

Toddler / Twos: Does the center/school offer a toilet training program that involves parents? Are children introduced to phonics at this age?

Preschool through Kindergarten Classrooms: Are educational programs available, over and above the monthly theme/lesson plan?

Ask about **@Zoo Phonics / Math Their Way / Literacy Home Reading Program / Spanish / Handwriting** and other educational programs offered at **Mini-Skool**

Pre K: Kindergarten Club (Kindergarten Readiness program)

**** ask to see the program materials******

Is there a fitness program available encouraging physical activity and a healthy lifestyle? **Ask about Bearfoot's Fun With Fitness Program**

Is there an attractive outside play area with suitable apparatus and activities for each age?

Health and Safety

Is the center Licensed? ****ask to see a copy of the license**

Is there a safety plan in place, in the event of an emergency?

Are children adequately supervised?

****ask what the teacher to child ratios are for each age group**

Are the teachers trained in First Aid/CPR?

Is the lobby area monitored at all times by a member of Management?

What are the procedures for who is allowed to pick up a child?

Are outdoor play areas fenced in and monitored?

What is the sick policy of the center?

What type of discipline is used at the center?

Communication

Are you allowed to visit the center at any time (within reason)?

Is there daily, weekly and monthly written communication, for example, Newsletters, Daily notes

Does the center provide you with Developmental Records?

Does the center have annual on-line Parent Assessment Surveys?

Were you given a packet of information after your center visit?

Miscellaneous

On what days is the center closed?

Is the tuition due on a weekly, monthly or annual basis?

Will you receive a yearly tax receipt for income tax deduction purposes?

Does the center offer a **Parent Referral Program** where you are eligible to receive **FREE TUITION** for your child? ****Ask about Bearfoot's Referral Program**