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What To Look For In A Good School

By Adwina Jackson

Selecting a good school for your children can be a difficult challenge. Many parents are under the impression that they have no choice when it comes to their children's education. This isn't the case at all however.

Most parents check into school districts before having children, or before moving into the home they plan on raising their children in, as your location may affect which school your children attend.

Others look into charter schools or private schools to ensure that their children are afforded the best possible educational opportunities.

No matter what you decide, there are several things you should do in advance to be sure you're children will get the most out of their academic experiences.

There are several qualities good schools have in common, and these are what you should be looking for when you investigate schools in your area.

Since you will probably initially be looking at pre-schools and kindergarten, we will focus on these schools so you know what to look for.

Good Reputation - Any good school will have a solid reputation. You should here good things about it from neighbors, friends, and family members and in general. Not sure if a school has a good reputation? Ask around. Your sure to find information if you are a bit curious. A school with a good reputation is likely to be warm, welcoming, friendly and knowledgeable about children's development. If you're not sure about a reputation, consider visiting the school and meeting with the director. They should be able to provide you with references.

Established Procedures and Rules - A decent school will have a set schedule of procedures and rules they follow with regard to child care and curriculum. Do not opt for a school that allows to much flexibility when it comes to policies and procedures. Remember that flexibility may impact your child's safety and well being, as well as their opportunities for learning growth and development. Clearly

What To Look For In A Good School

established hours should be defined and well as lessons and even meal times. There should also be a strict sick child policy in place.

Invigorating Curriculum - Check to see how stimulating the educational facilities curriculum is. A good curriculum will include a wide variety of activities including group activities, individual activities, reading sessions, play time and even quiet time and free time. Check to see that the curriculum is age appropriate and changes over time. Some schools even have specialized curriculums geared toward teaching children various philosophies.

Whatever school you decide to go with, be sure that you look for a program that you are comfortable with and that supports your ideals and philosophies.

Your children should be encouraged to develop their independence and creativity.

Don't forget to make it a point to visit the school and watch other children while in the learning environment. This will be your best tip off regarding the quality of the school.

Adwina Jackson is a wife and mother of a young boy. She's also the editor of Inspiring Parenting, an online source of valuable parenting information. Please visit

<http://www.InspiringParenting.com>

for

helpful and free parenting info. Observe your children's health, growth and development by clicking the website.

A New School Year

By Kimberly Chastain

Depending on where you live school will be starting this month or next month. A new school year is usually exciting and scary at the same time. Most children won't admit it, but they are ready to get back to school and see their friends. As much as I love not having a rigid schedule in the summer, I do miss the structure of the school year. We get up later in the summer and go to bed later as well.

When you think of a new School Year what are your first thoughts? Back to school shopping for clothes and school supplies. A big transition from elementary to middle school, or to high school, even college. A new teacher who you heard is strict or not strict enough? There can often be lots of anxiety with a new school year for parents as well as children.

Can I offer a few suggestions for your back to school list? Remember whose children they are. Yes they are our children, but they are God's children. He cares about them and loves them more than we ever could. Pray for your children. Pray for their academics, choice of friends, study habits, and

What To Look For In A Good School

wisdom to make Godly choices. Pray for their teachers. If their teachers are not Christians, pray that God can use you to be an example to their teachers. Pray for the administrators in your child's school. Pray for the safety of your child and all the children at their school. Pray that your children will see a Godly example in you, with how you handle school difficulties or problems with your children. Begin praying with other mothers for their children as well. We don't have to carry the burden alone. Above all remember God is in control. I often have a difficult time remembering that principle.

In closing, God is a mighty God and he cares about our concerns. I often pray on the way to taking my children to school. I pray when my children are having difficulties with friends. God cares about everything in our lives and He truly cares about our children. My mother is a prayer warrior for my children and myself. May we all become prayer warriors for our children. Take your problems to Him and leave them there.

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Kimberly M. Chastain, MS, LMFT is the Christian Working Mom Coach and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who specializes in helping Christian women make the most of their lives. She is the author of the on-line course, "I Can't Say No" and Pearls of Encouragement for Christian Working Moms, a free e-book. If you suffer from "I Can't Say `No" Syndrome, visit Kimberly's site today for the details on an exciting email course that's sure to set you free!

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kimberly@jerpat.org

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