

Choosing the Best Care for Your School-Age Child

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Quality early childhood education isn't costly.....
IT'S PRICELESS!

School Days

The school-aged child's world is rapidly expanding—school, sports, lessons, friends, before and after school activities. They are learning all the time—not just academic skills, but attitudes towards learning and towards themselves and their abilities. There are simple things you can do to enhancing their early brain development such as;

- Eat dinner together as often as possible
- If your child shows musical aptitude or interest, let him take instrument lessons or join a choir
- Listen to your child and find out what matters to her—respect the feelings she expresses even if you disagree
- Play board games together
- Save some of their drawings and school work—look at them together and note progress.

When you visit a program for school age children, do you find:

- Individual, large group, and small group activities available; children have the opportunity to choose from among a variety of activities.
- Opportunities for children to complete a project over several days or weeks.
- Quiet time and space available to do homework or relax alone; adult assistance available if needed.
- Sufficient quantity and variety of materials and space to use them so that conflict between children is minimized.
- Staff who teach and model conflict resolution techniques.
- Staff having meaningful conversations with children based on child's interests.
- Children given responsibilities and input into planning activities, trips and projects.
- Staff who allow and encourage children to make decisions and solve problems.
- Materials which include sports equipment, board games, art, science, dramatic play, cooking, music, construction materials, books, writing and publishing materials, etc.
- Access to safe outdoor play area.

You'll want to question when you see:

- All children required to do the same thing at the same time.
- Unlimited use of TV or videotapes.
- Staff standing to the side simply watching the children, or talking among themselves.
- Children bored or constantly switching activities.



To Find Quality Child Care Call 1.877.338.2273 or Visit www.qualistar.org Today!