

Top 5 Questions Every Parent Must Ask a School Before Enrolling

It is human nature to go with the flow and just follow where everyone else is going. There are a few however who have the confidence to make their own decisions, particularly when it comes to something as important as their child's education. Here are a few questions that we suggest that you should ask a school before enrolling your child in that school.

1. What is unique about your school? Why should I enroll here and not at my 2nd (or 1st) choice school?
2. Is your school a child-centered, a teacher-centered, a curriculum-centered or a parent-centered school?
 - No matter what they answer, the follow-up question should be: What processes and resources are in place to make sure that they are true to their center and are effective in serving your child well.
3. What will you do to adjust to my child's unique strengths and needs?
 - a. What if the child is bored and/or knows everything being taught in class? What do you (not the parent) do with those kids?
 - b. How do you adjust to the needs of or provide a challenge to brilliant students?
 - c. What if the child doesn't know much of what is being taught in class, what do you (not the parent) do with those kids?
4. What do kids learn in school (vs. at home)?
 - a. Ask the school if they can provide any assurances that the child will achieve some baseline proficiency when they finish the program (without requiring parent teaching) ? There is a huge difference between parent participation and parents being primarily responsible for
 - b. What process and resources does the school have in place to make sure that this will actually happen?
 - c. You would be well served to ask other parents (ideally, 5-6) whose kids go to that school for their experience.
5. What do they do to make sure that the child feels at home while at school? What special process and resources are there to assure this?

Additional Important Questions

6. What is the Student/Teacher ratio?
7. How well rounded is the program? How much time is spent in academic vs. creative vs. social/fun and play activities?
8. How do they make the program experiential, fun and stimulating?
9. Is there any special activities/focus on developing their social skills / confidence?
10. What 2nd language options are available at the school?