

Preschool & Care Comparison Sheet

01 / YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE

Use the same questions on each visit. Write down an example you heard or saw. This is a conversation tool, not a rating or readiness test.

Program A: _____ Program B: _____

Visit dates: _____

WHAT TO ASK	PROGRAM A	PROGRAM B
Relationships Who will know my child? How do children settle in?		
Learning What do children explore? How do teachers build on interests?		
The group How many children and adults? Who covers staff breaks?		
Hard moments How do adults help with feelings and disagreements?		
Communication How can we talk? How will I hear about progress?		
Daily rhythm What choices, movement, meals and rest are offered?		

Something that could help my child feel at home:

An answer I want to understand better:

Your family's week.

02 / THE PRACTICAL DETAILS

Ask for the actual calendar and written fee information. Compare the same time period for both programs. Add other care and travel to see the whole picture.

WHAT TO ASK	PROGRAM A	PROGRAM B
Days and hours Arrival, departure and available days		
Calendar Start/end dates, holidays, closures and summer		
Eligibility Age, bathroom routines and available support		
Total cost Tuition period, deposit and what is included		
Other costs Supplies, meals, extra care and transport		
Handoffs Who collects my child? Where do lunch and rest happen?		
Backup plan What happens if a program or care arrangement closes?		

Our next step / question to follow up:

Read the companion article

sparkacademymorton.com/blog/daycare-preschool-comparison-guide/

Explore Spark's current programs

sparkacademymorton.com/programs/

For more questions: NAEYC's family guide to a high-quality preschool

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/what-does-high-quality-program-for-preschool-look-like>

Free resource from Spark Academy. Print at Actual Size / 100%. Use another copy for additional programs. Keep completed sheets for your own use; no information is collected by Spark through this printable.