

 What should I look for or ask when choosing a childcare center?	The Children's Courtyard®	School 2	School 3
Program			
Does the classroom have a fitness or health program?	<p>Yes — the Frog Street Pre-K curriculum supports both large group and outdoor play experiences to encourage physical fitness. The curriculum encompasses Conscious Discipline; a social-emotional program which reinforces to children that they are safe and loved and includes strategies to disengage stress. Children learn to solve conflicts, manage emotions and take responsibility for their actions. Healthy choices are encouraged during meal times as children engage in family style dining.</p>		
Do children have ample time to work alone and in groups?	<p>The Pre-K classroom's daily routine supports an active balance of teacher and child-directed activities. Small group experiences are typically facilitated by the primary caregiver and the High Scope curricular framework supports the Plan-Do-Review process for Pre-K children. This process encourages children to think about what they want to do (PLAN), then act upon their thought (DO) and finally review with the teacher how their plan worked out (REVIEW). A child needing alone time will find comfort in our cozy semi-private areas in the Pre-K classroom.</p>		

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How will my child's individual goals be outlined and progress towards those documented?	The Frog Street Pre-K curriculum includes weekly individual assessments that emphasize key developmental skills and are in accordance with the Texas Pre-Kindergarten guidelines. Using the assessment as a guide, teachers create lesson plans that support specific activities to achieve developmental outcomes. Observations of the Pre-K child engaging in these activities are recorded using anecdotal records and are stored in the Pre-K child's portfolio. This information is shared with parents during family teacher conferences held twice a year.		
Do the children play outside every day?	Yes — Pre-K children explore the outdoor classroom daily, experiencing elements of the curriculum and nature using their five senses (weather permitting). Appropriate gross motor play equipment is also available to enhance development.		
Will the curriculum prepare my child for kindergarten?	Yes — the Frog Street Pre-K curriculum implements research based principles of learning emphasizing strategies that are based on current brain research. The senior and contributing authors of the curriculum are world renowned for their abilities to implement seamless integrated curriculums for		

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	<p>young children. The curriculum taps into all of your Pre-K child's developmental domains, creating higher level critical thinkers. All of the curricular activities are in accordance with the Texas Pre-Kindergarten guidelines and provide a smooth transition into the acquisition of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) guidelines encountered in kindergarten programs.</p>		
Are writing materials available to the children?	<p>The Frog Street curriculum supports the use of writing materials throughout the Pre-K classroom and helps children develop an understanding of the purpose of writing to convey thoughts. Pre-K children are exposed to shared and modeled writing in which the teacher models appropriate writing strategies. Each Pre-K child also has a personal Journal, to further encourage writing and creativity at their own pace.</p>		
Are there high quality children's books available?	<p>The Frog Street Pre-K curriculum supports the essential elements of early literacy for Pre-K children. Each Pre-K classroom includes a library center composed of quality children's literature that is aligned with curricular themes and the interests of the children. Children are introduced to general</p>		

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	book care and essential literary components such as the author, illustrator, title page, reading from left to right, etc.		
How are lesson plans created?	The Frog Street Pre-K curriculum highlights thematic units with a range of literacy and math learning strategies and goals. Key Developmental Indicators or developmental summaries outlined by the High Scope framework, support the implementation of the curriculum. Using the curricular resources coupled with the Key Developmental Indicators and the child's individual portfolio assessment; teachers create lesson plans that support the achievement of milestones and curricular goals.		
Is there a character development program?	The Frog Street Pre-K character development program emphasizes Conscious Discipline strategies. This program introduces the children to a literary character named Shubert, who implements these strategies to navigate his way through social conflicts. Specific Character Education traits are also introduced with each thematic unit. Fannie and Francisco, the interactive puppets in each Pre-K classroom also support the implementation of character education strategies.		

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Are children happily and busily engaged in interesting and diverse activities and projects?	The Pre-K classroom offers a balance of quiet and active play learning areas including; art/creativity, library/listening, writing, dramatic play, blocks, sensory, science and manipulative play. Teachers provide activities that meet the changing interests of each individual learner. Following the High Scope curricula framework, children are actively involved in the Plan, Do, Review process initiating their own play experiences with easily accessible materials.		
Is the school clean and welcoming?	Yes — the school is clean and welcoming. All families are greeted with a smile by school administrators, teachers and support staff		
How is the spread of germs prevented? Is there a policy for disinfecting toys throughout the day and at closing?	Following national accreditation, state licensing and company standards, teachers and children wash hands after toileting, outdoor play, before and after sensory play, before and after meals and after contact with any bodily fluids. Hand washing rebus posters are posted in the Pre-K classroom near both children and adult hand washing sinks. Toys are sanitized weekly and documented on weekly sanitation logs; toys that come in contact with any bodily fluids are immediately sanitized. The family handbook highlights		

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	exclusion criteria for health related illness.		
Are the teachers engaged with the students?	Yes — teachers are very responsive to the needs of the Pre-K child and model appropriate language and social interactions. Teachers consistently engage the children in meaningful conversations at their eye level to stimulate critical thinking skills and self expression. Second language opportunities are also encouraged with the implementation of both sign language and Spanish strategies by the Pre-K teacher. Regular engagement strategies supported by the curriculum such as literacy comprehension strategies, modeled and shared writing, analytical talks, categorical language and visual cues can also be observed in the classroom. Classroom charts and graphs are documentation of these meaningful engagements with Pre-K children.		
Will there be daily communication about my child's day?	Yes — each Pre-K classroom has a "What We Learned Today" posting on the parent board that will highlight curriculum information and provide details about your child's day. Your Pre-K child may also take home a "Home-School Connection" folder on Friday detailing the week as well as family partnership activities to be completed at home.		

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How else does the school communicate with parents?	<p>Parental communication is facilitated in a variety of ways; weekly communication sheets, family- teacher conferences, school festivals, curriculum nights, parent's night out and daily verbal communication at both arrival and departure times. Parents and teachers are also encouraged to openly communicate during the school day to discuss the individual needs of the Pre-K child when necessary</p>		