

Northstar Preschools **DAYCARE B** **DAYCARE C**

1	Do they offer both Montessori and traditional learning options to fit your child's unique style and needs?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Is the staff stable, experienced, and trained to deliver consistent care and learning every day?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Are the directors and teachers genuinely invested in your child's well-being - and do they feel like partners in parenting?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Do meals accommodate allergies and preferences while promoting healthy, kid-friendly nutrition?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Is the center open and transparent- can you tour anytime, and do they openly communicate with parents?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	How do they ensure safety - secured entrances, daily wellness checks, and regular emergency drills?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	How experienced are teachers - do they receive strong onboarding and ongoing professional development, and is staff turnover low?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Is there a strong sense of warmth and community - where your child and family are truly known and valued?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Will you get real-time updates, messages, and multiple daily photos so you always feel connected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Do they offer engaging indoor and outdoor play spaces that are safe, secure, and developmentally rich?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A few questions you should be considering...

Do the children look happy and engaged?

Are the children happy and healthy? Look for signs that they are enjoying their environment with lots of activities going on. Remember the staff are there to facilitate play and a noisy child care setting should be full of fun activities. Ask about children's daily routines. Are there lots of child-led activities planned, combined with rest time and story reading?

What are the staff like?

Engage the staff in conversation and ask them about the child care setting, their role in the team, and how the business operates. This should provide you with a good idea of the quality of care on offer.

What activities take place within the setting?

Are the activities varied and do they include: messy play, role play, sensory and most importantly heuristic play? Do they have a structured learning program and do all members of staff have a thorough knowledge of this?

Why not pop in for a chat and take a look around our day school?

Is the setting good at communication?

Of course a daily update on what your child has been doing is a must for every child care provider, but how do they let you know about any events or other updates within the setting? Do they have a Facebook page or a newsletter that is sent out to parents; if so, ask to take a look.

What is the food like?

Study the menu. How often does it change? Does it look wholesome and nutritious and is cooked freshly onsite or bought in from an agency? Are children's dietary needs and preferences catered for?

Remember, you know best!

Parents' senses are vital when assessing the quality of a child care service. When you viewed the facilities, did you get a good feel from the setting? After all, you need to ensure that if you were to enroll your child in this setting that you would feel comfortable leaving them under the care of the team.

So make sure that you take a good look around the premises. Are they clean? Do the children seem happy? You'll know when you've got the right one!