

 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 curriculum supports both large group and outdoor play experiences to enhance gross motor development. Strategies for healthy bodies and recognizing healthy foods are also an essential part of the Private K program. Children are encouraged to make healthy food choices during meal times, engaging in family style dining.</p>		
Do children have ample time to work alone and in groups?	<p>The Private Kindergarten classroom implements a daily routine that supports an active balance of teacher and child-directed activities. Small group experiences imbedded in into this routine, concentrating on each child's individual needs. Private Kindergarten classrooms are also equipped with cozy, semi-private areas that accommodate a child needing alone time.</p>		
How will my child's individual goals be outlined and progress towards those documented?	<p>The Journey's curriculum includes individual assessments. These assessments help identify key developmental skills and are in accordance with the TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) guidelines outlined by the state. The assessments provide a continuum to gather information about your Kindergarten child and a means to document consistent performance.</p>		

Parent Tour Checklist Private Kindergarten

	The Children's Courtyard®	School 2	School 3
Program (cont.)			
	Using the assessment as a guide, teachers create lesson plans that support specific activities to achieve developmental outcomes. This information is shared with parents during family teacher conferences held twice a year.		
Do the children play outside every day?	Yes — Private Kindergarten 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 available to enhance development.		
Will the curriculum prepare my child for first grade?	Yes — the Journey's curriculum along with other curricular supports will prepare kindergarten children for first grade by tapping into all of their developmental domains (social emotional, language and communication, emergent literacy in reading and writing, math, science social studies, fine arts, physical development and technology) creating higher level critical thinkers. All of the curricular activities are in accordance with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) guidelines.		
Are writing materials available to the children?	The Journey's curriculum supports the use of writing materials throughout the classroom and helps children develop an understanding of the		

Parent Tour Checklist Private Kindergarten

	The Children's Courtyard®	School 2	School 3
Program (cont.)			
	purpose of writing to convey thoughts. Kindergarten children are exposed to shared and modeled writing in which the teacher models appropriate writing strategies. Classroom learning centers also encourage writing using various writing utensils and mediums.		
Are there high quality children's books available?	Each Private Kindergarten classroom includes a library center composed of quality children's literature that is aligned with curricular themes. Children are taught the value of caring for books and essential literary components are discussed such as the author, illustrator, title page, etc.		
How are lesson plans created?	The Journey's curriculum highlights thematic units with a range of literacy learning strategies and goals for kindergarten children. Each child's growth is mapped through the use of assessments. Using the curricular resources coupled with the weekly assessments teachers create lesson plans that support the achievement of milestones and curricular goals.		
Are children happily and busily engaged in interesting and diverse activities and projects?	Private Kindergarten children are actively involved in the classroom environment with a balance of quiet and active play learning areas. Teachers		

Parent Tour Checklist Private Kindergarten

	The Children's Courtyard®	School 2	School 3
Program (cont.)			
	provide adaptable activities to meet the changing interests and needs of each individual learner. A variety of learning centers are available including; creativity, library/listening, writing, dramatic play, blocks, sensory, science and manipulative play. All learning centers support activities that are developmentally appropriate and are available at the child's level.		
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, appropriate hand washing techniques are strongly implemented in the Private Kindergarten classroom. 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 classroom near both children and adult hand washing sinks. The family handbook highlights exclusion criteria for health related illness.		
Are the teachers engaged with the students?	Yes — teachers are very engaged and model appropriate language and social interactions.		

Parent Tour Checklist Private Kindergarten

	The Children's Courtyard®	School 2	School 3
Program (cont.)			
	Teachers consistently engage the children in meaningful conversations at their eye level to stimulate appropriate problem solving and critical thinking skills. Regular engagement strategies supported by the curriculum such as literacy comprehension strategies, modeled and shared writing can be regularly observed in the form of classroom charts and graphs.		
Will there be communication about my child's day?	Yes — each Kindergarten 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 child may also take home a "Home-School Connection" folder on Friday which may contain curricular activities or family partnership activities to be completed at home.		
How else does the school communicate with parents?	Parental communication is facilitated in a variety of ways; 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 Private Kindergarten child when necessary		