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| Our Vision:  The first five years of a child’s life are a time of intense growth and discovery, building a solid foundation for learning later on in life. Young children learn best when they are in a supportive environment that encourages them to explore with all of their senses. Our classrooms and curriculum are designed to provide sensory-motor experiences that nurture growth in all areas of development.  As children gain skills, knowledge and understanding through rich play and academic experiences, they grow intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally. Because each child learns at his/her individual pace and prefers particular learning styles, we measure progress individually. Our goal is to be a partner alongside parents, and we share each family’s desire to help their child reach his/her fullest potential. | | | | | |
|  | | **Today’s Life** | **School #2** | **School #3** | |
| Basic Info | | | | | |
| Location | How close is it to your home? |  |  | |  |
|  | How close is it to your work? |  |  | |  |
| Hours | What are hours of operation | 7am to 6:15pm |  | |  |
| Tuition | How much is the tuition? |  |  | |  |
|  | Are there different fees for different ages? | Yes |  | |  |
|  | Do fees include meals? | Yes /Not Infants |  | |  |
|  | Are there discounts for siblings? | 10% off of older sibling (full time only) |  | |  |
|  | Is there a discount if my child is out a full week? | 20% |  | |  |
|  | Are there any extra fees- registration fees, supply fees, late fees? |  |  | |  |
|  | Does tuition cover any enrichment programs (music, physical fitness, Spanish, etc.) | Yes |  | |  |
| Quality | Is the school part of a cooperation, or private? | Private |  | |  |
|  | Does the organization have assurance program? | Yes |  | |  |
| Teacher Ratio | What is the teacher/ student ratio? | I.1/4,T.1/7, P.1/10 |  | |  |
| Health & Safety | | | | | |
| Security | What are the school’s policies related to safety? |  |  |  | |
|  | Does each child get their own crib or cot? | Yes |  |  | |
|  | Is the front entry always locked and staffed for security? | Yes |  |  | |
|  | Does the school have an emergency preparedness plan? | Yes |  |  | |
|  | Are there safe, fenced, litter-free outdoor play areas? | Yes |  |  | |
|  | Does center allow blankets in crib? | No – we follow safe sleep procedures |  |  | |
|  | Does staff check infants often while they are sleeping to make sure they are breathing? | Yes, constantly checking on the children |  |  | |
| Health & Nutrition | | | | | |
|  | Is hand washing encouraged? | Yes, required and developing self- help skills |  |  | |
|  | Are toys, books and furniture in good shape? | Yes |  |  | |
|  | Does a nurse come once a moth? | Yes, a nurse from MN Child Care Health Consultants |  |  | |
|  | Are meals prepped on site? | Yes |  |  | |
|  | Does the school provide nutritious food? | Yes, menus available at your request |  |  | |
|  | Does staff keep in touch with parents about child’s health throughout the day? | Yes, especially though our Daily Connect App |  |  | |
|  | Does center post any serious illnesses notifications around the center? | Yes |  |  | |
|  | Are medicines and cleansers locked up away from children reach? | Yes |  |  | |
| Curriculum | | | | | |
| Goals/  Philosophy | Does the philosophy fit with your values? |  |  |  | |
|  | Is the curriculum research-based? | Yes |  |  | |
|  | Does curriculum prepare children for elementary school, academically and socially/emotionally? | Yes |  |  | |
|  | Is each child’s development tracked and shared with parents on a regular basis? | Yes, also conferences twice a year |  |  | |
| Social-Emotional | Is there a character development program? | Yes  Letter Muncher |  |  | |
| Programs | Does the school offer activities to support the community? | Yes |  |  | |
| Math | How does the school introduce math concepts? | High Scope Curriculum& Houghton Mifflin |  |  | |
| Reading | What is the school’s approach to teaching reading? | High Scope Curriculum& Houghton Mifflin |  |  | |
| Music | Is music integrated into the  curriculum for teaching and  learning rather than playing in  the background? | Yes, daily |  |  | |
| Physical Activity | Do the children play and learn  outside? | Yes, daily  Infants go on walks |  |  | |
| Technology | Is the appropriate technology  integrated into the  classrooms? Is it used as a tool  for creative expression  and problem solving rather  than just for playing games? | Yes |  |  | |
| Language | Does the school offer a foreign  language program? | Spanish |  |  | |
|  | Does the school use sign  language in infant and toddler  classrooms? | Yes |  |  | |
| Field Trips | Do the children take field  trips? | We bring in to the center |  |  | |
|  | If so, what are the policies? |  |  |  | |
| Private Pre-K Program | Does the school offer a pre-K  program? | Yes |  |  | |
| Learning Environment | | | | | |
| Atmosphere | What is the atmosphere of the  classroom? |  |  |  | |
|  | Is the school safe, clean and  Welcoming? |  |  |  | |
|  | Are toys being cleaned daily? | Yes |  |  | |
|  | Does it have a positive  energy? |  |  |  | |
| Quality of Interactions | Are the children engaged in  organized activities and  interacting with teachers and  other students? | Yes |  |  | |
|  | Are the teachers responding  to the children and talking  with them, not at them? | Yes |  |  | |
| People | | | | | |
| Holidays | What holidays are the center  Closed? | Main  Holidays |  |  | |
| Overall Feel | Are the children and teachers  Happy? Trust your instinct! |  |  |  | |
| Teacher Training | What are the training requirements for teachers? | Masters Degrees & CDA |  |  | |
|  | Is there ongoing professional development for teachers? | Yes |  |  | |
|  | Are teachers certified in first aid and CPR? | Yes |  |  | |
| Staff Turnover | Is center still open when staff  Has training? | Yes  We do it after Hours |  |  | |
|  | How long have the staff/  teachers been with the school  or in early education? |  |  |  | |
|  | How does the school handle  staff turnover? |  |  |  | |
| Parents | How is the child turnover? |  |  |  | |
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| Parent Communication | | | | | |
| Communication Methods | How does the school communicate with parents? |  |  |  | |
|  | Does school communication  include:  -Teacher conferences  -Daily activity reports  -Monthly newsletters  -Email  -Letters to parents  -Telephone conversations | Yes |  |  | |
| Parent Portal | Is there a dedicated Parent Portal on the school’s website? | Yes |  |  | |

**Notes:**