

✓ CHECKLIST FOR **Early-Childhood Excellence**

Do you want your child to: Cooperate with others? Learn to share? Improve physical skills? Gain confidence? Become a great reader? Solve math problems? Be creative? Learn about God's love? Enjoy school? Use this guide to help find the right school for your family.

- Teachers are state certified with bachelor's degrees; they are warm, friendly and participate in ongoing training.
- The classroom environment is inviting, colorful, and clean.
- The student to teacher ratio allows for individual attention when needed.
- Open communication exists between teacher and parents and the principal and teacher are available via phone, email, and in-person meetings.
- The classroom is set up for a wide range of activities that support learning.
- The daily schedule allows for activity, learning, play and quiet time.
- The early childhood program is part of an established setting for learning; not just an "add-on."
- Children have access to enrichment programs such as computer, music, gym, art.
- The building and the classroom are safe and secure; a system is in place for supervision at all times.
- The community is family oriented and encourages parents to be involved.
- Students are welcomed into a community of faith and children begin learning about character building and caring for others.
- The program's curriculum is aligned with Illinois' Early Learning Standards.
- There is a seamless plan in place for transition into Kindergarten and first grade.
- The early childhood program has undergone an evaluation process and is recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education.
- The program is flexible enough to meet your families' scheduling and financial needs.
- It's about finding a school filled with quality faculty who bring a **commitment to academic excellence.**
- It's about an atmosphere that **ignites a love of learning.**
- It's about a **culture that is welcoming and supportive.**
- It's about a **community that works together** and a place with special traditions.

Find a school at near you at **schools.archchicago.org/schools**

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