

Odyssey Early Schools
Birmingham, Alabama
Quality Childcare Checklist

The Tour

| | Odyssey | School 2 | School 3 |
|---|-----------|----------|----------|
| Were you welcomed warmly? | | | |
| Were you offered an immediate tour? | | | |
| Were you shown all areas of the center? | | | |
| Were you shown the kitchen? | | | |
| Were you introduced to teachers in your child's likely classroom? | | | |
| Were you informed about the school's safety measures? | | | |
| Are parents allowed to visit whenever they like? | | | |
| What are the procedures for contacting parents in an emergency? | | | |
| What are the procedures for protecting against unauthorized pick-ups? | | | |
| Is the door from the lobby to the classrooms secured? | Yes | | |
| Is there a staff member in the lobby at all times? | Yes | | |
| Is there a telephone in each classroom? | Yes | | |
| Are parents allowed to call their child's classroom during the day? | Yes | | |
| Are the staff's personal calls put through to the classroom during the day? | No | | |
| What are the schools hours? | 6:30-6:00 | | |
| Does the school meet or exceed all NAEYC certification standards? | Yes | | |
| When did the school first open for business? | 1995 | | |
| Did the administrator seem honest and comfortable answering questions? | | | |

Video Monitoring

| | Odyssey | School 2 | School 3 |
|--|---------|----------|----------|
| Does the school have a closed-circuit television system with dedicated monitors in the lobby allowing for school administrators and parents to view each classroom in color and in full-motion at all times? | Yes | | |
| Does the school offer Internet video monitoring? | Yes | | |
| Is each family restricted to only being able to view their child's classroom after entering a secured username and password combination? | Yes | | |
| Is this service free? | Yes | | |

Comment: If only those parents with a child in a classroom can see that classroom over the Internet, and if the school has an open door policy that allows parents to visit their child's classroom at any time so that all children in the room can be seen at any time at the center, and if the service is provided to the school at no cost to the school itself (which is how nearly every provider offers this service), then what is the center's explanation for not providing this service?

Additional Notes:

Toddler Program

| | Odyssey | School 2 | School 3 |
|--|---------|----------|----------|
| Is the child-to-staff ratio 6:1 or better? | Yes | | |
| Is a written activities report provided to the parents each day? | Yes | | |
| Are there at least two teachers in each classroom? | Yes | | |
| Does the curriculum emphasize fun, learning, or both? | Both | | |
| Are the learning activities specifically designed for each age group? | Yes | | |
| Do parents provide diapers or does the school provide diapers? | School | | |
| Is there a bathroom for potty-training inside each toddler classroom? | Yes | | |
| Is there a sink at child-level for hand-washing in each classroom? | Yes | | |
| What is the maximum weekly time that children can watch television? | 60 min. | | |
| Does each child have their own individual locker or other storage space? | Yes | | |
| Is there an abundance of children's artwork displayed in the classroom? | | | |

Pre-School Program

| | Odyssey | School 2 | School 3 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Is the child-to-staff ratio 10:1 or better? | Yes | | |
| Are there at least two teachers in each classroom? | Yes | | |
| Are four-year college-degreed teachers <i>guaranteed</i> in preschool rooms? | Yes | | |
| Is each classroom child-sized and designed for learning and fun? | Yes | | |
| Does the curriculum emphasize fun, learning, or both? | Both | | |
| Are the learning activities specifically designed for each age group? | Yes | | |
| Is the program designed to prepare the children for primary education? | Yes | | |
| How structured is the program? | Moderate | | |
| Is there a boys and a girls bathroom inside each preschool classroom? | Yes | | |
| Is there a sink at child-level for hand-washing in each classroom? | Yes | | |
| What is the maximum weekly time that children can watch television? | 60 min. | | |
| Does each child have their own individual locker or other storage space? | Yes | | |
| Is there an abundance of children's artwork displayed in the classroom? | | | |

Meal Program

| | Odyssey | School 2 | School 3 |
|--|---------|----------|----------|
| Does the school serve breakfast? Lunch? Snack? Late afternoon snack? | Yes | | |
| Are all meals included in tuition for all children who eat table food? | Yes | | |
| Does the menu seem child-oriented? | | | |
| Does the menu seem healthy? | | | |
| How frequently does the school change or rotate their menu? | 4 menus | | |

Additional Notes:

Staff

| | Odyssey | School 2 | School 3 |
|---|---------|----------|----------|
| Does each classroom have a fixed staff, assigned only to that room? | Yes | | |
| How does the school cover staff absenteeism and lunch breaks? | Floater | | |
| Do the teachers seem happy? | | | |
| Did the teachers greet you warmly? | | | |
| Did the teachers greet your child warmly? | | | |
| Do the teachers dress professionally? | | | |
| Did the teachers answer questions about themselves and their classroom? | | | |
| What is the hiring process? | | | |
| Are all new teachers put through a complete background investigation? | Yes | | |
| Are at least three written references collected from non-family members? | Yes | | |
| Does the center follow-up with all references for each applicant? | Yes | | |
| What is the average turnover of the staff? | | | |
| What is the average pay rate of the staff? | | | |
| Does the staff receive health and dental insurance? | Yes | | |
| Does the staff receive paid leave? | Yes | | |
| Does the staff receive holiday pay even when the school is closed? | Yes | | |
| Are monthly, semi-annual and annual training sessions required? | Yes | | |
| Is the staff provided access to continuing education resources at school? | Yes | | |

Facilities

| | Odyssey | School 2 | School 3 |
|---|---------|----------|----------|
| Do the children look happy? | | | |
| Were the children engaged in fun, learning activities during your tour? | | | |
| Does your child think it would be fun to attend this school? | | | |
| Does the environment seem child-oriented? | | | |
| Are there plenty of windows in the classrooms? | | | |
| Can the classrooms be observed through windows from the hallway? | Yes | | |
| Are all exterior doors automatically locking when closed? | Yes | | |
| Does the school use incandescent lighting in all classrooms? | Yes | | |
| Does the school have a full-time janitorial / maintenance staff? | Yes | | |
| Does the school look clean? | | | |
| Do all tile floors get mopped each night? | Yes | | |
| Do all carpets get vacuumed each night? | Yes | | |
| Do all carpets get steam cleaned each month? | Yes | | |
| Did the air throughout the school smell clean? | | | |

Additional Notes:

Tuition & Fees

| | Odyssey | School 2 | School 3 |
|--|-----------|----------|----------|
| Average weekly infant tuition (\$840/month) | 194.00 | | |
| Average weekly toddler tuition (\$790/month) | 182.45 | | |
| Average weekly preschool tuition (\$730/month) | 168.59 | | |
| Average weekly after school tuition (\$260/month) | 60.05 | | |
| Average weekly summer camp tuition (\$725/month) – includes field trips | 167.44 | | |
| Extra day fee | 45.00 | | |
| Is there a Wait List Fee? | \$120 | | |
| Does payment of your Wait List Fee guarantee admission? | Yes | | |
| Is there an annual enrollment / registration fee? | \$120 | | |
| Does Wait List Fee also pay your first year's annual enrollment fee? | Yes | | |
| Is there a security deposit required to protect against early withdrawal? | No | | |
| How much notice is required to withdraw? | 1 Month | | |
| When are tuition and fees due – weekly or monthly? | Monthly | | |
| Are regular tuition statements provided? | Monthly | | |
| Does the school provide receipts for income tax credits? | Yes | | |
| Does the school accept any government assistance or offer financial help? | No | | |
| Is there a late pickup charge? After what time? | \$2; 6:05 | | |
| Can you take a copy of any contracts home with you? | Yes | | |
| Is your tuition charged regardless of vacations, illness and absenteeism? | Yes | | |
| How many weekdays each year is the school completely closed? | 12 | | |
| Are there any other fees besides wait list, enrollment, tuition and diapers? | No | | |
| Were you provided with a clear explanation of all tuition and fees? | | | |

Other Programs

| | Odyssey | School 2 | School 3 |
|---|---------|----------|----------|
| Are field trips offered? | Yes | | |
| Are there extra fees for field trips? | Usually | | |
| How are the children transported during field trips? | Van | | |
| Can parents access child development and parenting resources at school? | Yes | | |
| Are references available from current families? | Yes | | |
| Is an elementary-school transition program in place? | Yes | | |
| Is dance offered? | Yes | | |
| Is gymnastics offered? | Yes | | |
| Are any other special programs offered? | Yes | | |

Parent communications

| | Odyssey | School 2 | School 3 |
|--|---------|----------|----------|
| Is there a weekly newsletter for all parents? | Yes | | |
| Is there a weekly classroom newsletter for all parents in each room? | Yes | | |
| Is there a bulletin board outside each classroom to identify activities? | Yes | | |
| Are there any other special events during the year? | Yes | | |
| Are there semi-annual parent-teacher conferences? | Yes | | |

Additional Notes:
