

# WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CHRISTIAN PRE-SCHOOL

1. **Christian Teachers** – Teachers are the heart and soul of any school. A quality Christian pre-school should have Christian teachers who love Jesus Christ and seek to pass on this love on to the students. What are the requirements for the teacher’s church involvement and personal faith?
2. **Qualified Teachers** – Teachers need to have training and experience in working with pre-school students. What are the credentials of the faculty?
3. **Christian Curriculum** – The curriculum should teach Christian truths and incorporate the Bible. How is the Bible taught? How is the Word of God integrated into all aspects of the school day? How is biblical truth built into each subject?
4. **Joyful and Encouraging** – The atmosphere of the classroom affects students greatly. It is important for the learning environment to be joyful and encouraging. Do you see evidence of this in teacher comments, notes, stickers, sticker charts, hugs, star of the week activities?

5. **Age Appropriate Activities** – Learning activities need to be age appropriate. It is a delicate balance to be not too easy or not too hard for the average group of students in the classroom. Are age appropriate activities provided – reading aloud to students every day, hands on activities, songs, Bible stories, music, art, centers, writing, phonics?
6. **Beginning of Phonics** – Pre-school is a time to lay the foundation of phonics. Are children taught the beginning sounds, blend ladders, and name words using various sounds or by matching pictures to letter sounds or objects and stories that relate to letters?
7. **Beginning of Math** – Pre-school is also a time to lay the foundation in mathematics. Are children taught story problems, shapes, time, months, days of the week, calendar, count by 1's- 5's- 10's, recognizing and counting money, numbers 0-20?
8. **Centers** – Play based learning is an important part of any pre-school classroom. Centers provide a great way to learn math, science, math, and many language arts skills. Do you see centers for writing, stamping, painting, blocks, kitchen, house, drama, Legos?
9. **Physical Exercise** – Young children need to develop gross motor skills and use up extra energy through exercise. Pre-schools should have lots of time for recess and physical education. How many times a day do students have recess? How often do they have physical education? What are they doing during these times? Do they play with hula hoops, jump ropes, riding toys,

balls? Do they have age appropriate climbing units and swings? Do they have proper supervision and instruction during these times?

10. **Prayer and Worship** – A Christian pre-school should have regular times of prayer and worship. How often do they sing worship songs and pray in the classroom? How often do the students have chapel?
11. **Grace-filled and Loving Character Training** – All children, especially pre-school children, need to know we love them and God loves them. Teachers should frequently talk about God and train the children to live in a way that pleases God and blesses their classmates. Are students taught to make choices that please God? Are students taught to love their classmates?
12. **Parents Welcomed** – Parents should be welcome in the classroom. They should feel free to visit at any time and get involved by reading, assisting in special activities, and just to talk. Do you see signs that parents are welcome?
13. **Clear Communication with Home** – Teachers and parents need open lines of communication. How do teachers communicate with the parents? How can parents communicate with teachers? Look for evidence of good communication through notes on papers, weekly notice about what is going on, phone calls, permission slips, newsletters, e-mails, and conferences.

\*\*\*This document was developed by the faculty and leadership of [Saint Simons Christian School](#). Feel free to copy it, distribute it, or link to it on your website.