

What I wish I knew...

The Early Learning Guide

Use all of your senses during the visit:



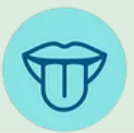
Look: are the children interacting with their educators in a clean and well cared for centre?



Listen: for the hum created by busy, engaged children



Smell: does the centre smell fresh and clean?



Taste: would you be happy to eat the food being provided?



Touch: are the children learning with a range of resources which engage all their senses?



What I wish I knew earlier: parents with children in early learning share their Top Five Tips for families just beginning to search for a centre for their child

Stable Team

Tell me about the educators and teachers working in this room?

Tip ... listen for answers that include information on:

- How long the team been together – high turnover can lead to poor quality
- Will the same educators be in this room most days – this helps children to build strong relationships with their educators
- Do you always have the right number of educators in each room? (ratio of educators to children)
- Are your team receiving above award rates?
- Do they continue their professional development?

Safety

How will your team keep my child safe?

Tip... Listen for information on:

- Supervision and roll checking
- Playground checks
- Rules on educators always being in sight and sound of another educator
- Safe nappy changing policies
- Safe sleep policies

Learning & Routine

What does a typical day involve for the children in this room?

Tip ... Listen for a thoughtful routine which meets your child's needs for physical activity, engagement, good nutrition and rest:

- Is there a routine for my child to follow when they arrive?
- Look around – are there plenty of books and activities for your child to enjoy?
- Plenty of space for indoor and outdoor play

Partnering with Families

How do you keep your families informed and involved in their child's day?

Tip... Listen for how they will keep you informed about:

- Your child's day – food and drink consumed, nappy changes and rest periods
- Learning opportunities and activities and their progress
- What they will do in an emergency or after an incident involving your child

Nutrition

What will my child be eating?

Tips ... Ask for a copy of:

- The current menu
- And about food safety measures if your child has allergies or dietary requirements

