

# Checklist for Preschool

	PISGAH	CRÈME DE LA CREME	NORTHMINSTER	ALPHARETTA FIRST UNITED METHODIST	JOHNS CREEK FIRST UNITED METHODIST	NORTHPOINT PREP	QUESTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS
Christian Foundation		NO				NO	Do faculty & programs reinforce Christian values/foundation you have established in your home? Is Christmas Celebrated? Are devotions/chapel part of program?
<b>FILL IN BLANKS AS YOU VISIT OR TOUR SCHOOLS AND DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCES.</b>							
Safety & Security							Does the facility include swipe keyed entrances and working cameras? Do faculty practice best safe & health practices?
Faculty							Are faculty members degreed, highly trained, skilled, professional, and nurturing?
Curriculum							Is a comprehensive curriculum provided that prepares children for success in Kindergarten with Math, Language Arts, Handwriting, & Character education?
Technology							Is computer instruction and interactive instruction a key part of the program, including Smart tables?
Art Specialized Teacher							Are art instructors trained & experienced or does the class teacher simply present general art time? <b>**More below.</b>
Science Lab Separate and Equipped							Is there a separate, dedicated science lab where students can explore and experiment on a regular basis? Are resources readily available?
Music Specialized Teacher							Are music instructors trained & experienced or does the class teacher present general music time? <b>**More below</b>
Spanish Specialized Teacher							Are language teachers trained & experienced or does the classroom teacher simply present general instruction?
Physical Education							Is the physical education coordinated by a skilled and qualified physical education instructor? <b>***More below.</b>

## **\*\*Importance of Arts Education**

Recent John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Report: "Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning," offers clear evidence of how arts can improve academic performance, energize teachers, and transform learning environments. Developed by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in conjunction with several prominent foundations, the report details research projects that included students, educators, artists and others in New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. Results include: (MacArthur Foundation, 2000)

- Students with high levels of arts participation outperform "arts-poor" students on virtually every measure.
- Learning through the arts has significant effects on learning in other domains.
- Arts experiences enhance critical thinking abilities and outcomes.
- The arts enable educators to reach students in effective ways.

## **\*\*\*Value of Physical Education**

Studies suggest a connection between physical activity and increased levels of alertness, mental function, and learning. Research indicates that schools that offer intense physical activity programs see positive effects on academic achievement, including increased concentration; improved mathematics, reading and writing test scores; and reduced disruptive behavior. From "*Bridging student health risks and academic achievement through comprehensive school health programs*", *Journal of School Health* 1997; 67(6): 220-227, and "*Appropriate functions of health education in schools: improving health and cognitive performance*", Krairweer, N., Arasteli, J., Cataldo, ., eds., *Child Health Behavior: A Behavioral Pediatrics Perspective*, John Wiley, New York, NY, 1986.