

Choosing Care for School Age

- Is the ratio appropriate? 5 to 8 years 1:18 and 9 to 12 years 1:20
- Involve your school-ager in choosing a program. School-agers want to be in a program where there are other school-agers
- Talk and listen to children attending the program
- Does the staff have experience working with school-agers?
- Does the staff have training specifically in school age development?
- Does the staff return to the program year after year?
- What rules will children be expected to follow? How does the program discipline children who break these rules? Discipline should not be physical or demean or humiliate children.
- What hours and days are you open? What happens if I drop my child off early or pick up late? Are you open when school is not in session? Can a child attend part-time?
- How do you involve parents in the program? (e.g. parent advisory council)
- How will the program keep you informed about changes in the program?
- Is there enough staff so that children receive individual attention? What is the adult/child ratio?
- Are children supervised so that you can tell me where my child is at any given moment?
- How do you meet the different needs of younger and older school-agers?
- Does the program allow children to plan and conduct their own activities?
- Does the program encourage school-agers to develop social skills and values?
- Does the program keep you informed of your child's progress?
- Is there a safe outdoor space that can accommodate group sports and other activities?
- Does the program handle homework in the way you would like?
- Is there a program orientation for parents and children?