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Characteristics of a *Quality* Christian Preschool



FREDERICKSBURG
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Educating Christian Leaders for Life

Your child's education is **important**.

You want to ensure that your child is learning in a healthy, educational environment. When you choose to educate your child at a quality Christian preschool, you are choosing to give them the opportunity to learn, and to develop mentally, physically, and spiritually.

Here are **eleven** things to consider when discovering the best option for your child.

1

Christian worldview.

One added benefit of enrollment in a Christian preschool is that the school shares the same values and beliefs as your family.

In a quality Christian program, your child will learn about a loving and patient God, and to be patient with others in an enriching and positive environment. A high quality preschool program is dedicated to helping your child flourish in their love for God as they grow and learn beyond basic academics.



2

Comprehensive curriculum.

According to educational experts, balance among skills acquisition, academics and child-driven play is essential to your child's academic success. A quality preschool program will offer your child a wide range of learning opportunities, in a variety of settings, rich with biblical values and positive development.

A program employing a quality, comprehensive curriculum must meet common goals. These goals can include: social, cognitive, literacy and emotional skills, and physical development. In order to give to each child the advantages of a comprehensive curriculum, a program should include well defined:

- Child-driven activities
- Teacher-directed activities
- Large and small group activities
- Individual activities

A strong curriculum combined with teachers partnering with parents provides children with a successful learning experience in a healthy environment.

Biblical values as part of daily teaching

Growing with God is an integral part of teaching each day at a quality Christian preschool. Core values are infused in the curriculum: your child learns about animals, but also about the creation of those animals. A Christian preschool program ensures that your child's learning occurs in an environment reinforcing the Christian worldview your family shares at home.

3

School **transparency** as a feature.

School transparency is an important feature of a quality program. You have the God-given right to be involved in your child's education, a belief a quality Christian preschool will embrace and encourage.

When considering a Christian preschool program for your child, consider a variety of factors, for which a quality Christian preschool will be transparent, such as:

- How the environment is managed
- Experience and qualifications of your child's teacher(s)
- Beliefs and values of your child's teacher(s)
- School's educational philosophy
- School's, and teacher's, discipline policy

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Parental involvement is essential.

Preschools must maintain a close relationship among the school, teachers, and parents to give your child the best chance for success in early education.

This relationship will be a high priority within a top program. A solid partnership between parents and educators can provide a strong educational foundation of unwavering Christian values that will benefit your child for years to come.

Get to know your child's teacher, as they will be spending a lot of time with your little one. Visit the classroom and meet the potential teacher as one part of your process.

5

Quality preschool is **important**.

According to GreatSchools.org, a quality preschool is likely your child's first experience with a structured environment. Structure provides children with the solid educational foundation they will need in kindergarten. You want to give your child every opportunity to realize a clear path to academic and social success.



6

Their **social** skills can grow.

Your preschool choices should focus on an environment where your child can grow socially, while being carefully guided by caring and well-educated teachers. They will learn the importance of sharing and following instructions, and respecting and helping others.

The children will play and be encouraged to engage in age-appropriate activities at their preschool because the emphasis will be the play, skill and a developmentally appropriate academic balance necessary in every child's life.

7

Emotional skills are **defined** and refined.

Your child has already developed their own personality complete with specific likes and dislikes. At this age, your child has yet to fully learn how to express their emotions in an appropriate manner. Preschool children might try to snatch a toy from another child, hit or bite, and sometimes resort to tantrums.

With the help of highly qualified teachers, your child learns how to identify and manage their emotions, and develop strong emotional skills by learning how to express their feelings in a socially appropriate manner, such as:

- **Play well with others**
- **Share toys**
- **Take turns helping others**
- **Listen while others are speaking**
- **Spend time trying to complete a difficult task**
- **Be aware of other's feelings**
- **Better understand the difference between right and wrong**

The Bible is incorporated into daily teaching by teachers who are partnering with parents to lay a solid educational foundation for your child that includes Christian values and their love for God.





8

Strong **cognitive** and motor skills development.

Cognitive development is just as important, as a child's thinking skills allow them to acquire information and keep it available for recall in the future. Strong cognitive skills can also affect the following:

- **Memory**
- **Reasoning**
- **Logic**
- **Critical thinking**
- **Decision making**
- **Problem solving**
- **Spatial reasoning**

Fine and gross motor skill development is important during a child's preschool years. By choosing a Christian preschool program, you ensure that your child develops strong motor skills early in their education. These skills are needed for tasks such as:

- **Writing**
- **Zippering**
- **Turning knobs and dials**
- **Completing jigsaw puzzles**

These skills are developed and refined through fun activities like playing with blocks, painting and using scissors. Outdoor play also strengthens these skills with activities including everything from skipping to kicking a ball and hopping on one foot, along with independent and organized play.

A quality Christian preschool will give your child an academic advantage as they prepare for kindergarten.

9

Language and **reading** skills.

The Child Development Institute suggests that speech and language skills develop in the preschool years. With enrollment in a Christian preschool program, your child will gain an academic advantage that includes important biblical values and learning skills essential to academic success. Your child will learn essential language skills by participating in fun activities, and following a curriculum focused on teaching your child to communicate clearly with others through language. By the time your child has finished preschool, they will be more than ready for kindergarten.

Once your child reaches kindergarten they will need to have acquired a skill set imperative for further learning and growth. Children can gain these skills from involved parents at home and the benefits of a quality preschool program. Some of these skills include:

- **Talking in full sentences that include more than two ideas**
- **Ability to follow two-step instructions**
- **Express ideas and communicate effectively**
- **Recognize rhyming words**
- **Recognize some upper and lower case letters and letter sounds**

By enrolling your child in a Christian learning program, you are ensuring that your child's academic abilities are developed to the fullest. While at Christian preschool, your child will learn biblical values infused with quality academics that encourage articulate communication and learning.

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Developing **pre-math** skills.

A quality Christian preschool program encourages the development and exploration of your child's pre-math skills. Your child will learn basic math concepts to form a solid foundation for continued learning in the later years. A quality program will boost long-term math achievements by teaching your child important math concepts and skills such as:

- **'More', 'less', and 'same as' size comparisons**
- **Size order (big to small, and small to big)**
- **Identify and draw shapes (circle, square, triangle)**
- **Differentiate numbers from letters**

The importance of **balance**.

A quality Christian preschool understands the importance of balance among the three main preschool activities: play, skill development, and academics. Your child will grow and learn in an enriched environment, immersed with biblical values and the Word of God in daily teaching. A quality program makes play, imagination and creativity just as important as academics, and encourages and strengthens cognitive, social, emotional and gross motor development skills.

By choosing a Christian preschool program that encourages a healthy balance between academics and child-driven play, you are giving your child a solid educational foundation that encourages and reinforces your family's love for God.



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Fredericksburg Christian School understands the importance of the journey you are on to find the right preschool. They trust this ebook was helpful and encouraging. Please don't hesitate to give them a call or schedule a visit if they can be of assistance.

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