

Questions parents could ask when visiting a nursery for their child

Staff Qualifications:

- 1) What are the qualifications of your main teaching/ nursery staff?
- 2) Do you have enough staff who are trained in First Aid available on the premises at all times?

Curriculum:

- 1) What early years curriculum or approach do you follow?
- 2) What is your daily schedule like? And how do children know about the schedule? (Is there a visual timetable)?
- 3) How do you support the learning and development of both languages (Arabic and English) in your setting?
- 4) How does the keyworker system work in your nursery?
- 5) Do you offer field trips?

Adult-to-Child Ratio and Working Hours

- 1) What is your adult: child ratios?
- 2) What are your hours like? Do you have the possibility of flexible/ extended hours for children?

Health, Safety and Security:

- 1) How do you ensure children's safety on the premises?
- 2) What is your policy on someone aside from the parent collecting the child?
- 3) Do you have a healthy eating policy? How do you promote healthy eating at nursery?
- 4) How is cleanliness and hygiene maintained?
- 5) What is the policy of sick children attending?
- 6) What is the policy on administering medication?

Communication and Parental Involvement

- 1) How do you keep parents informed about their child's progress/ development? What modes of communication do you use?
- 2) How do you involve parents in children's learning?
- 3) How does the nursery handle feedback and concerns from parents?

Special Needs and Behaviour Management

- 1) How do you promote early intervention/ early support for children who may need that?
- 2) How do you typically address any behavioural issues in young children of this age?

School Readiness and Transition

- 1) How do you support children's independence in self-help skills?
- 2) How do you ensure that children are ready for school by the time they leave you?
- 3) How do you support children's transition to school/ next stage of learning?
- 4) Where do children typically go to after leaving here? (Are you a feeder nursery to any particular school)?

Outdoor Play and Extra-Curricular Activities

- 1) How much time do children get to play outdoors and how do you encourage physical activity?
- 2) What extra-curricular activities do you typically offer?

Trainings and Working with External Professionals

- 1) What opportunities are there for In Service Training/ Professional Development for staff? And do you ever run parent workshops?
- 2) Do you work with external professionals if you feel there is a need to do so?

Compiled by:

Nadia Sultan and Rutuja Tipnis

Educational Psychologist and Psychologist in Training

IEC Contact number: 99202186