



We all began our journey of learning with the first step that our parents took for us, i.e., choosing the right school. A school is a place we were all nurtured to become what we are today. A good part of everyone's student life is spent at School. The environment that surrounds us during the formative years greatly impacts our personality, character and creative skills.

Schools are the platforms that define ambience and environment for students during this phase. Therefore, parents have an onerous task of selecting the right school for their children and providing an environment that radiates positive vibes necessary for a student's holistic development.

Here are some aspects to look out for before choosing a school.

Climate of learning

School climate refers to the impression one gets while entering a school. It is described as "the heart and soul of the school that essence of a school that leads a child, a teacher, and an administrator to love the school and to look forward to being there each school day." (Wikipedia). Positive vibes at school result in better learning outcomes, not only in terms of education, but also in terms of mental and physical well-being of the children. Positive climate at school is also determined by the influencers such as teachers, peers, ambience of surroundings and freedom of movement.

- Teachers are the main influencers because students spend a significant part of the day with them. Teachers tend to make an impact in shaping the students' thought process and moulding their academic and personal growth. They play the role of both mentors and role models that students silently tend to follow.





- The right peers at school can help to create a healthy competition needed to dream big and translate them to reality. When a student is surrounded by a motivating environment, the goals get set higher and challenge the limits of the students.



- Ambience of surroundings keeps students engaged in building dreams and stay motivated. Things such as sports facilities, reading materials and a healthy meal system are all the essential amenities that keep students fit, both mentally and physically.

- Children's spirit of creativity and exploration pushes them to move constantly to know their world better. They find it hard to remain confined to a place where free movement is not possible. Most of the classrooms come with restricted settings that makes them the mere spectators in the process of learning. This makes learning a mountain hill task for the children. Classrooms that allow free movement of children, but involves learning through activities hold the key to effective learning.



In essence, parents have to keep in mind that motivating environment and good company are the keys for the success of a student. They need to keep these elements in mind while making the right choice of school for their children.

Safe environment

Zero to six years is a crucial phase in the life of children to ensure they reach their full learning potential. During this phase children need be provided with adequate physical and emotional security in order to optimize their mental well-being and learning outcomes. Here are some of the aspects need to be kept in mind while choosing a school—

**Health –
both physical
and mental
well-being**

Nutrition

**Responsive
care giving
and
nurturing**

**Safety and
security**

**Emotionally
caring
environment**



Teaching methodologies and curriculum

- Conceptual learning: Zero to six years is a crucial phase in child development when children need to develop diverse skills such as Gross and Fine motor skills, Sensory skills, and Cognitive skills besides socio-emotional development. The rote learning pedagogy does not facilitate a holistic learning development. It limits inquisitiveness and spirit of exploration. Pedagogy should be innovative and create a hunger for creativity amongst students by making learning engaging, experiential and relevant so as to connect them to the outside world.
- English and Math as part of Curriculum: English and Math are important for children to ensure success in the formal education, and to prepare them for high school, and even to secure jobs later. If they are not part of curriculum in early childhood, the children will not have a solid foundation in language and numbers.

Learning at the child's pace

Each child is unique when it comes to growth pattern and style of learning, because the skills and abilities are distinct to each child. A learning plan has to be designed based on their individual traits gathered through the journey of learning. Activities have to be planned and adapted according to a child's pace of development. This is an important aspect to look out for while choosing a school.

Balancing academics and play

Schools are meant to serve multiple goals. During childhood, children learn while they play. Play not only entertains and engages children, but also educates and promotes learning and development. Schools need to bring in experiential learning where children immerse themselves completely into the learning process in a playful way. This helps the school tap the learning potential of the children to the fullest extent, when brain is receptive to absorbing knowledge. Kreedo prescribes activity based learning for the children to make them better learners for life.

*"Education is not the learning of facts but the training
of the mind to think"—Albert Einstein*