



Questions for School Visits

As you walk into the building how do you feel? That first feeling is a big deal. Trust your gut!

Is the office staff friendly and welcoming?

Do you see children working in groups?

Do you see parents working in classrooms or anywhere?

Check out the bulletin boards – is it children’s work? If there is art on the walls or bulletin boards it should not all look alike.

Is the building clean?

Is the outside “tidy” and is there a playground? Is it used?

Is there a sufficient amount of space for drop off and pick up?

Questions to Ask

Is there a full time school nurse?

What reading program do you use and how do you foster a love for reading?

How much time do students get to learn science and social studies? Do you use a specific curriculum? (many charter schools and schools in general have eliminated daily science/social studies and only teach it through reading)

Do you have a library where students can check out books? A librarian? If not, how do students get access to reading material?

Is there music class? Will students get introduced to different instruments? Will they learn how to read music? How often do students have music?

Do students have art class? How often?



What kind of after school activities or enrichment programs are offered?

How are students graded?

What assessments are given and how often?

How long is lunch? Recess(es)?

Do students go on field trips? Where and how often?

Is there a PTA or active parent group?

Are there teacher aides?

Questions to ask about Charter Schools

What is the teacher turn over rate?

What is the faculty teaching experience?

How many on the staff are TFA grads?

Is there a behavior code?

How much homework is assigned?

What is class size?

What is population make-up?

If there are home visits, what kind of data will be collected? For what purpose?