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When you are ready to enroll your child in a childhood education program in Port Jefferson, NY you may wish to consider all of your options. You don't want to make a decision until you have some information that will allow you the opportunity to assess the options each pre-school offers and decide which one is best for your child.

## Educational Program

One of the first things you want to consider is the type of educational program each school offers. This may mean thinking about what you want for your child; some parents may be seeking only minimal educational resources for their pre-schoolers while others are looking for something more intensive such as the type of childhood education available in Montessori schools. Before you make a decision about the type of pre-school program you want for your child you should research the various pre-school activities that each facility offers and choose the one that is right for your child.

## Structured Play

An important aspect of any pre-school program is structured play. This means children play together in an environment that allows them self-expression while they also have the opportunity to enhance their curiosities about life and the world in general. You have to remember children have not yet had to endure the trials and tribulations that cause adults to close their minds to new opportunities, so children are the best candidates for new learning opportunities.

## Outdoor Activities

Children of pre-school age are always curious about nature, so you should choose a pre-school whose pre-school activities include exposures to different aspects of nature. This might mean walks through the woods or just outdoor play that allows the children to see how all living things interact and live with one another. You also want to choose a program that allows your children to interact with other children within the scope of the environment.

## Self-directed Activities

While it is important for children to interact with other children, they also need to develop the ability to figure things out on their own. Learning to become independent thinkers is part of the learning process, but children need direction and help from adults in this area. Choose a school that provides both interactive activities as well as self-directed activities that will allow children to enhance their natural curiosities about life and the environment around them.

## Weigh Your Options

After you speak to several different pre-school administrators in Port Jefferson, NY make a list of the advantages and disadvantages of each. Ask yourself what you really want for your child and if you are seeking just playtime activities or want something that is going to prepare him or her for the school environment. Choosing something for the long term puts the Montessori school program at an advantage since this program prepares students for a lifetime of successful learning. Make sure you make an in-person visit rather than trying to make a decision based on a telephone call or visit to a website.

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