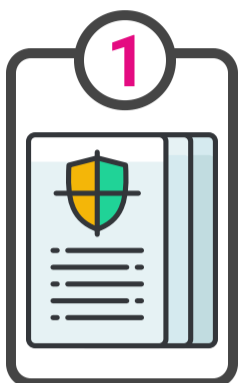


Choose a High-Quality Afterschool Program

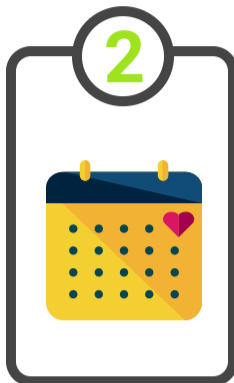
The hours between the time that children get out of school and the time that working parents/guardians come home is considered "prime time" for continuous learning and growth or risky behaviors. This critical window of time after school presents not only challenges but also opportunities to impact youth development. By choosing a high-quality afterschool program, children and youth have better opportunities to engage in new experiences, build relationships and learn new skills.

When choosing an afterschool program, consider the below items and questions to help guide your decision.



1

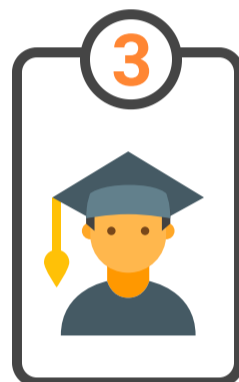
Does the program have written policies to protect the safety of children?



2

Is the afterschool program organized?

Ask to see a printed calendar or schedule of activities. Ask if the activities usually begin and end on schedule. Does the staff seem to be rushed or calm?



3

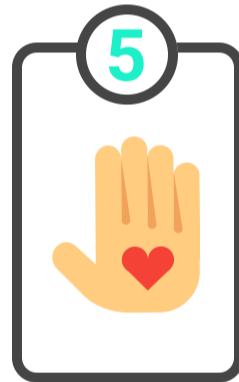
Is the staff trained to provide children with new and positive learning experiences?

Parents/guardians should ask to see educational credentials of the staff. Ask if the program receives an evaluation of quality.



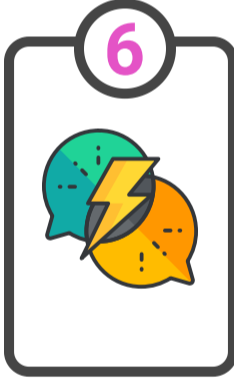
4

Does the staff involve children as partners in the program and encourage them to work together?



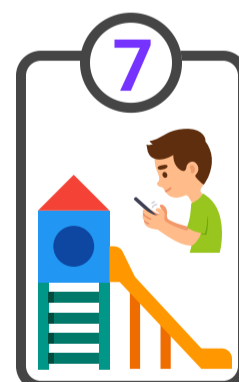
5

Does the staff create an environment that allows children to feel a sense of belonging?



6

How does the staff handle conflicts, arguments, disagreements, or misunderstandings among the children?



7

Are there lots of activities for children to do? Do the children AND youth take part in the activities?

Do the children seem to be enjoying the activity or do they seem to be bored?

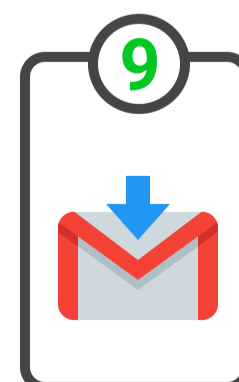
Or is the program "one size fits all?"



8

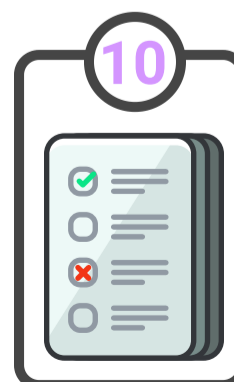
Does the program allow children to work on homework?

Are staff members helping them with their homework? Are there other things the children are learning during the program (art, sports, music, cooking, etc.)?



9

Does the program offer email updates, parent/guardian meetings, one-on-one talks, etc?



10

Does the program offer receive an evaluation of that address items 1-9?

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