

## 10 Questions to Consider Asking When Choosing a Quality Afterschool Program

1

### WRITTEN POLICIES

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

2

### ORGANIZATION

Is the program organized? Ask if activities usually begin and end on schedule. Does the staff seem to be rushed or calm?

3

### PROFESSIONALISM

Are the afterschool staff trained to work with children? Are the teachers working in afterschool? College students?

4

### INTERACTION

Does the afterschool program staff work and play well with the children? Spend a little time watching how the staff members interact with the children.

5

### COMMUNICATION

Does the staff regularly tell parents/guardians what is going on in the program? Does the program offer email updates, parent meetings, one-on-one talks, etc.?

6

### BEHAVIOR

Do the children in the program seem happy? Are they playing together peacefully, or are they fighting and arguing with each other?

7

### RULES

How do the afterschool staff handle conflicts, arguments, disagreements or misunderstandings among the children? Are there clear rules for behavior?

8

### ACTIVITIES

Are there a range of activities for children to do or is the program "one size fits all"?

9

### INTEREST

Are the youth in the program taking part in activities? Are they interested ... or are they bored? Do they seem to be enjoying the activity?

10

### EDUCATION

Does the program allow children to work on homework? Are staff members guiding them with their homework? Are there other things the children are learning during the program (art, sports, music, cooking, etc.)?

The Children's Services Council of Martin County provides funding for the Martin County Out-of-School Time Quality Improvement Initiative. In partnership with Prime Time, resources and supports for out-of-school time professionals are provided to develop programs that inspire children to be their best and allow them to thrive socially and academically. Prime Time's integrated model of services is one the strongest, most comprehensive and well-respected systems for measuring and improving out-of-school time program quality in the nation.

To learn more, visit <https://www.cscmc.org/funded-programs/>.