

Why Discerning Parents Choose Somerset

Somerset's program is a research-based learning environment designed to intrigue and challenge young children. Somerset was founded and designed by Early Childhood Education (ECE) professors as a model program and is owned and administrated by ECE professionals who actively engage the teachers to use research-based early childhood practices.

To help you select the best possible program for your child we have listed some of the special aspects of Somerset's programs which make us unique among other Early Childhood educational programs. Please use this checklist to compare Somerset with other programs.

Important Factors:

Accreditation by internationally recognized ECE professional organization, the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) since 2000	✓	
Participation in the Michigan Great Start to Quality Program, earning a 4 star rating	✓	
Parents are invited to evaluate the program annually to help us continue to meet evolving parent needs	✓	

Somerset staff is highly qualified and receives regular training

Somerset's Director has a 4 year Early Childhood Education (ECE) degree or higher and many years of both teaching and administrative experience in ECE programs.	✓	
Somerset teachers have 4 year Early Childhood Education degrees or equivalent and many years of teaching experience with young children.	✓	
Teachers receive in-house training opportunities and are required to complete 24 hrs. of additional training each year to keep their teaching skills and knowledge current.	✓	
Every staff member's performance is reviewed annually.	✓	
Every staff member is required to have a criminal background check, current CPR & First Aid certification, and regular emergency procedure training and practice.	✓	

Teaching and Supervision - Teacher to Child Ratios

Preschool 2.5-4 years old = 1:8	PreK 4-5 years old = 1:10	KE 5-6 years old = 1:12	✓	
Adults are warm and welcoming			✓	
Each child's individual goals are identified and actively supported			✓	
Child guidance is gentle and consistent			✓	

Health and Safety

Classrooms are professionally cleaned and sanitized daily.	✓	
Children practice emergency procedures regularly.	✓	
Playground is fenced and far away from traffic.	✓	
Building has restricted access while children are present.	✓	
Somerset is a nut-free facility.	✓	

At Somerset, each child's development is supported in physical, social, emotional, and cognitive areas through our general curriculum and our individualized goals for each child.

Developmental screening tools are available to reassure that children are developing normally in all areas.	✓	
Anecdotal records and other systematic observations are kept on each child that document developmentally significant experiences.	✓	
Curriculum is based on Michigan and Creative Curriculum ECE objectives.	✓	
Specific learning experiences for each classroom are planned monthly and are based on observations within each classroom.	✓	
All children are supported in the development of personal habits which will contribute to their future success in a variety of settings.	✓	

Children are individually guided and supported in developing:

Effective self-management skills	✓	
Effective communication skills	✓	
Increasing attention span and persistence	✓	
Increasing skill in observing and gathering data through their senses and recognizing patterns of information	✓	
Increasingly complex social and cognitive play behavior	✓	
Increasing ability to solve problems and conflicts effectively	✓	
Independence and self-confidence	✓	
Ability to "work" collaboratively and cooperatively	✓	
Pre-reading and pre-math activities and other "academic" preparation is carried out in a meaningful and developmentally appropriate context.	✓	

Somerset's program involves parents and families

Parents are welcome to visit any time their child is in attendance.	✓	
Parents' feedback is sought and used in making program improvements.	✓	
At least two parent/teacher conferences are held each year.	✓	
Parents are provided with a copy of the program's policies (Parent Handbook).	✓	
A variety of optional activities are provided to include parents and families each year and also to help parents meet their child's friends' parents.	✓	

Adapted from Michigan's Great Start to Quality, "Is This The Right Place For My Child" checklist.

Somerset
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