



Rosewood Academy

Childcare and Preschool

Rosewood Academy has given my girls opportunities they would not have otherwise had. It has made a positive impact on them and my family as a whole. Every night I thank God for leading us to Ms. Kelli, and the rest of the amazing team at Rosewood Academy."
— Amy B.

12 Questions You Must Ask Before Choosing a Childcare or Preschool Setting

Let's face it, choosing a childcare center can be a daunting task. Not only do we worry about the effects this decision will have on your children, it can also challenge our effectiveness in the workplace as well. Children have always been our true passion and we feel blessed to be in business. We are proud to say Rosewood Academy has dedicated the past 11 years to educating and nurturing many children and look forward to continuing this service well into the future.

This report will help you to ask questions in order to choose the right childcare for your child. This report offers a list of additional questions and Rosewood Academy's response to these questions. We are confident this report will help you gain the information you need in order to take the stress and worry away from choosing a childcare facility. We know our responses given to these questions will help you understand why Rosewood Academy should be on the top of your list for childcare.

1) What is your overall childcare philosophy?

Our goals for your children consist of three separate but equal platforms. First, we want to instill a strong sense of personal security. Your child needs to feel safe at all times with other children and adults. Second, we want to fill them with a sense of self-confidence and help them discover the gifts bestowed on each one of them. Last but certainly not least, Rosewood wants to encourage a passion and curiosity for learning. In order to help parents, focus at work, we strive to provide an overall nurturing environment with an emphasis on academics. The environment at Rosewood Academy is a home-like atmosphere. We are a family-owned business and want you to always feel like our home is your home.

2) Describe your curriculum?

The curriculum provided at Rosewood Academy is a center-wide curriculum, becoming more challenging as the children age. We use a balanced-approach to learning, using thoughts and ideas from Creative Curriculum developed by Teaching Strategies Inc., Reggio Emilia, and some Montessori to form a balanced curriculum used to send the children off to Kindergarten with their head held high and a smile on their face. Rosewood Academy uses **Handwriting Without Tears** developed by Jan Z. Olsen, **OTR, and Reach for the Stars** developed by Robyn Birge. The children are taught sign language from infancy through Pre-K, and Spanish to aid in their language development and another form of communication. The curriculum helps Rosewood Academy to follow through with the philosophy set out for the school which is: a strong sense of personal security, a sense of self-confidence and encourage a passion and curiosity for learning.

During the early years, children play beside their friends, but not necessarily with friends until around 3 years of age. They will continue to learn by the side of a friend as they learn to share and work together to accomplish goals together such as a building with blocks or playing in the home-living center. One



Rosewood Academy

Childcare and Preschool

The last 4 years at Rosewood have been exceptional. It is comforting to know that my child is in the best care while I am at work. We feel like family at Rosewood, and the personal attention given to our child is superior. The activities at Rosewood are phenomenal.

—Paul and Johanna S.

Describe your curriculum cont.?

of our core belief's rests on the idea that every child in our care deserves to be intellectually challenged each day. Our curriculum is based on the idea that children of every age are like little sponges and will absorb information put in front of them, provided its fun and challenging. The more we offer the children about our awesome world, the more they will absorb and supports a better outcome for young children. Throughout each day, the teachers work on social and emotional skills while teaching the children life skills. We see every moment as a teaching moment, whether in the classroom, during Circle Time, Center's Time, walking in the hallway, on the playground, etc.

Our curriculum content of literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts and technology lays a firm foundation for life-long learning and healthy development. The standards we hold to see this curriculum through, are relevant to what children will be learning when they enter Kindergarten. Our students graduate from Rosewood Academy, reading, adding, subtracting, have wonderful social skills, self-help skills, can manipulate technology and make it useful to their senses, and are able to discover their world around them through self-discovery.

3) How will you communicate with me about my child? Our teachers love to communicate with you in any of these 3 ways.

- a. **1st line of communication is with your child's lead teacher.** You are welcome to chat with your child's lead teacher and/or assistant teacher at drop-off and pick-up and/or throughout the day by phone.
- b. **2nd line of communication is through an app called Tadpoles.** Rosewood Academy believes the quality of early childhood development is dependent on the connection between the parent and the child care provider. This wonderful app allows a two-way street between school and the child's parent. Tadpoles is a private and secure app that allows us to send you pictures of your child throughout the day and when you check your child out of for the day, you will receive your child's in-depth cubby note in your e-mail. Just that easy but such a wonderful asset.
- c. **3rd line of communication is through assessments of your child three times/year.** Assessments give your child's teacher a baseline of where your child is at when they enter our school. We start these assessments in our Infant classroom and continue them all the way until the child leaves Rosewood Academy. The assessments are for teachers to share as your child transitions to the next classroom. The assessments are based off of our center-wide curriculum and aides our staff to assist a child who may need more time to complete a task and/challenge your child to meet the expectations of the assessments as the child prepares for Kindergarten.

4) Does a center provide technology to the children and if so, what kind?

Technology is a huge part of our everyday living and will continue to increase in our world. Rosewood Academy offers Smart Boards, computers and iPads for use in the classrooms to accent the curriculum from the infant classroom through our school-age program. We have programs on these computers to teach new technology and to aid those who need to practice what might challenge them. The Smart Boards, computers/iPads engage our children with web-sites geared toward our curriculum.



Rosewood Academy

Childcare and Preschool

The first day she signed the words “more, and “all done” I was amazed.... She was after all only 8 months at the time. When she started counting and singing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” and signing while signing her ABC’s, I immediately ran for my video camera. —Kicha C.

We want the children to have self-confidence in using all forms of technology to prepare them for grade school, so technology won’t overwhelm them as it is being used in many school districts in the Omaha-area. It’s amazing to see how technology grasps the children’s attention and makes learning happen in a challenging but fun way, keeping children motivated, encouraged and with a passion to learn.

None of our 3 centers have a television on-site. The ages of children we are blessed to work with are at a stage in their life of which they will soak up as much as we offer them. Setting them in front of a television for prolonged periods of time is detrimental to short-term attention span and learning difficulties. The television does not allow the children to learn self-control and encourages impulsiveness. We save television viewing for home. Be leery of centers that offer video games and arcades, televisions, etc. as they are promoting childcare without human involvement.

5) May I have a list of your classroom expectations?

What is expected of each age-group before a child graduates/transitions to the next class? Rosewood Academy has developed guidelines for each age-group, which enables the teacher to have specific goals for each child. Each age-group has expectations and utilizes assessments to meet our philosophy. Children all develop at a different pace and we offer the children information to challenge each step. Some may be able to add earlier than those who read. Some children develop socially before those that develop their gross motor skills. Our teachers are observant and take each individual child’s growth into account when laying out the plans for your child to succeed in his/her development.

6) What are your sick policy and snow days?

Our Sickness Policy does not allow children to come to school with a communicable disease. The child must be fever-free for a 24-hour period and no loose stools for a 24-hour period as well. We aim to keep communicable diseases to a minimum as we know time off from work can be spent for vacations, personal days or one’s own sick days.

On snow days, we aim to stay available to our working parents and open for our children. The only reason we would have a late start or closed because of weather, is if access to our school is out of our control due to weather-related reasons. Some Omaha-area centers decide to close if area schools are closed. We decided long ago that until we see parents being offered snow days at work we would do whatever we could to remain open. It’s our goal to be here for you.

7) What can you tell me about your meals and snacks?

We have a cook on-site who makes healthy and delicious meals/snacks according to the National Childcare Food Program guidelines. Our breakfast includes a bread, fruit and milk product. Lunches include one item from each of the five food groups: bread, milk, protein, vegetable and fruit. Snacks include 2 of the 5 food group items. We limit high sugar, high-fat and processed foods. Rosewood Academy believes the closer to the ground a food item grows, the better nutrition for the child.



Rosewood Academy

Childcare and Preschool

While Brooks absolutely gets to play and have fun, he learns so much. By the time Brooks was 16 months old, he could count to ten without fail, could recite most of the alphabet, knew his animals and their sounds, shapes, colors, etc. Now at almost 2, he can count to twenty in English and Spanish, knows his colors in Spanish. —Jenni A.

At Rosewood Academy, we personally handpick our groceries each week, keeping the health of the children in mind first and the cost of food down where it's possible.

It's best to check with your child's teacher to see if there are any allergies within the classroom should you desire to bring in treats to your child's classroom. With a high number of food allergies, please limit foods that contain peanuts/nuts.

8) What is your staff turnover and staff training programs?

The owners and management of Rosewood take great pride in the staff they hire, as consistency is a key element for quality childcare. In the local area and in the childcare industry as a whole, staff turnover is a problem. However, Rosewood's turnover is well below the average for a childcare center. Three quarters of our staff has been with us for over two years, and we have several members of our staff that has been with Rosewood for over three years. Members of management (Director and Assistant Director) have been with the company for 11+ years Rosewood has been opened.

9) What are your security policies and how do you keep children safe on outings?

Security is of utmost importance for the children enrolled at Rosewood Academy. To access entrance into the school, one must possess a key card. If a stranger would walk in to our school, they must be buzzed in and have identification to have access to the rest of our school, past the front desk.

On field trips and outings, the staff has a sign-in sheet and also must check the children back onto the bus/van and/or our school. When the children take field trips they are assigned to a parent-volunteer who has one or two more children assigned to them throughout the entire field trip. Before leaving our school, we count the children who are on a van/bus before leaving for the field trip. We then count them again when they board the van/bus to leave the field trip and before heading back to Rosewood Academy.

10) Tell me about teacher-to-child ratios?

The State of Nebraska has developed regulations for childcare centers to abide by so the ratio of teacher to-child is kept to a nurturing and safe capacity. Rosewood Academy deems it necessary to strictly follow these guidelines in each age group.

Age	Maximum Group Size	Child-to-Staff Ratio
0-18 months	4	4:1
18-36 months	6	6:1
36 mo.- 4 yrs.	10	10:1
4-5 years	12	12:1
School-age	15	15:1



Rosewood Academy

Childcare and Preschool

The staff and teachers there are amazing, and you can easily tell how much they genuinely love children. Every night, I love hearing my daughter's stories of the many activities of her day. The programs are well structured, but they still allow kids to be kids and learn through playing. I also really appreciate the activities where the parents have the opportunity to get involved. —Stacie Z.

The child-to-staff ratio (the number of children for which each child care provider is responsible) affects the quality of care a childcare provider can give to each child. Small group sizes and low child-to-staff ratios are recommended for the well-rounded development of each child. With every industry, there is good and bad. When you ask a center director about ratios, every center in town will give you the proper ratios; however, there are more than a few centers in the Omaha-area that choose to run out of ratio throughout their day. Rosewood Academy's policy is to promote unannounced visits, as we want you to find the same calm and welcoming environment any time you visit. We recommend to others to try unannounced visits and if you find some resistance it should be considered a warning sign.

Please realize, it is the State of Nebraska's regulation a provider/caregiver cannot be left alone in any classroom or childcare setting unless they are of 18 years of age or older.

11) What is your discipline policy?

While this is one of the least favorite items to discuss it is also a very important part of helping children to become confident and secure even if occasionally they make mistakes. Our policy on discipline is very different than most centers. We do not use "time-out" nor do we tolerate aggressive talk or actions by our staff. Depending on the age of the child, our staff is trained to discuss the issues with the child and redirect them to more positive actions. Rosewood's staff is trained to never say, "NO!!" We ask the staff to say, "That's not okay". We want to save the "No" for issues of real safety concerns. If the child's actions continue and are a problem for others in the classroom, we will request a conference to discuss the issue and work on solving it together with the parents.

It's necessary to take a proactive approach in teaching our children about their world and making good choices. It's best to keep the children on a routine, make sure the children know the expectations in their classrooms, and continue to challenge them each day. Doing all of the above will allow for engaging and a healthy environment to learn in.

12) What is your "gut" feeling?

When you walk into a center, does it "feel" right? Does your instinct point to "Aaahaaa! Now, THIS is what I've been looking for!?" You will know from how you are welcomed at the front door, to what the center sounds like, to how the teachers acknowledged your child and you in the classrooms and to even how the cook greets you, as to whether the center is right for you and your precious child. How are the teachers interacting with the children in their classrooms and is there a calm about this interaction? How do the current clients appear? Happy? Content? Do they seem like they can move on to work, after dropping off their most precious blessing and know their child will be well-cared for in their absence? Does the center offer references and testimonials from current families enrolled?

At Rosewood Academy, we strive for all of the above and more. It's necessary to acknowledge prospective parents as well as our enrolled families. We want you to feel a part of our family and not just a number!

Having a controlled and fun chaos is our goal. The children learn academically, emotionally and socially within a happy and engaging environment. Our teachers participate within each classroom,

during center play as well as free play on the playgrounds. Little people learn from the interactions with their friends and with adults as well. They want to know the adults that we expect them to bond with, are as interested in them as much as mommy and daddy. You will witness our staff getting silly in the gym or other activities. From one mother to another mother, sometimes you JUST know. Trust your instincts.

We hope these questions will help to take the stress and worry away from choosing the right care for your precious angel. Rosewood Academy is confident you will find our facilities to be one of the elite child development centers in the Omaha area.