

Questions to Ask Before Joining a Pod

The 25 questions that reveal whether a pod actually fits your child and family.



The first conversation with a pod is the hardest — mostly because you don't know what to ask. Print this, bring it, and don't be shy about asking all of it. A good pod will be glad you did. In fact, *how a pod reacts to these questions is itself an answer.*

FIT — *does this match my child?*

- ☐ What ages does the pod serve, and how do mixed ages work day to day?
 - ☐ What does a typical Tuesday look like, start to finish?
 - ☐ What's the learning approach — and how does it show up in practice, not just philosophy?
 - ☐ How many children, and how many adults, on a normal day?
 - ☐ How do you handle a child who's ahead in one area and behind in another?
 - ☐ How is my child's specific need (temperament, learning style, diagnosis if any) supported?
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SAFETY — *ask, then verify in person*

- ☐ Who supervises the children, and what's the adult-to-child ratio?
 - ☐ What screening is in place for every adult who interacts with the kids — and how recent?
 - ☐ Walk me through drop-off and pickup. Who is authorized, and how is that checked?
 - ☐ What's the illness policy? The allergy and medication process?
 - ☐ What happens in an emergency — and who gets called, in what order?
 - ☐ Can I see the space where my child will spend the day?
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MONEY — *the real total*

- ☐ What is the total annual cost — tuition plus materials, trips, lunch, fees?
 - ☐ What exactly does tuition include and not include?
 - ☐ How are payments made, and what happens if one is late?
 - ☐ What's the withdrawal policy if we leave mid-year?
 - ☐ Is there a deposit, and is it refundable?
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EXPECTATIONS — *what am I signing up for?*

- ☐ What is expected of parents — time, volunteering, supplies, involvement?
 - ☐ How and how often will I hear about my child's days?
 - ☐ Who do I talk to when something's wrong, and how?
 - ☐ Is there a written agreement and handbook I can read before deciding?
 - ☐ What happens if a child — or a family — turns out not to be a fit?
 - ☐ How long has the pod run, and can I speak with a current family?
 - ☐ Why did the last family who left, leave?
 - ☐ What does the pod need from ME to make this work for my child?
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Visit before you commit. A 30-minute walkthrough tells you more than three weeks of messaging — and **a pod with written answers to these questions is a pod that will still be running in June.**

Ready to look?

Browse pods near you on the **Learning Pods Network** —and message two or three.
The first conversation is the hardest; you're now the most prepared parent in it.

[Find Pods Near You](#)