

Tour Questions Checklist

25 Questions to Ask Before You Choose a Learning Pod or Microschool

Choosing a pod or microschool is a big decision.

This checklist helps you ask the right questions about fit, safety, learning, cost, and expectations so you can make a clearer, more confident choice.



Introduction

Before You Say Yes, Ask Better Questions

A tour can feel exciting.

You may love the **space**, the **people**, or the **vision**.

But choosing the right program is about more than a good first impression.

You want to understand:

- whether the program is actually a fit for your child
- how the day works
- what safety systems are in place
- what you're paying for
- what expectations are being placed on your family
- and what questions you may not think to ask on the spot

Use this checklist when you **tour**, **call**, or **interview** a pod, microschool, or alternative education program.

You do **not** need to ask every question word for word.

Use it as a guide, take notes, and trust what you observe along the way.

The 25 Questions

1 | Fit & Learning

1. **Who is this program best for?**
What kind of child, family, or learning need tends to be the best fit here?
 2. **What ages do you currently serve?**
Are students grouped by age, stage, or mixed-age?
 3. **What does a typical day or week look like?**
Ask for the real rhythm, not just the ideal version.
 4. **What kind of learning approach do you use?**
Academic, project-based, nature-based, child-led, structured, hybrid, etc.
 5. **What subjects or learning areas are covered consistently?**
What is actually included every week?
 6. **How are different ages, levels, or learning styles supported?**
Especially important if the group is mixed-age.
 7. **How will I know if my child is learning and progressing here?**
What kind of updates, work samples, or communication should parents expect?
-

2 | Parent Role and Expectations

8. **What is the parent's role in this model?**
Especially important if this is a homeschool support program or hybrid model.
 9. **Is this a full-time program, part-time program, or support model?**
Make sure the program is being described clearly.
 10. **What expectations are there around family involvement?**
Volunteering, supplies, at-home learning, communication, participation, etc.
 11. **What kind of child tends to do well here — and who may not be the best fit?**
A good program should be honest about fit.
-

3 | Safety & Supervision

12. **Who is supervising the children each day?**
Who is on site, and what are their roles?
13. **What screening or background checks are required for adults working with children?**
Ask what checks are done and how recent they are.

14. What is the adult-to-student ratio?

How many children is each adult responsible for?

15. What is the drop-off and pick-up process?

How do they manage authorized pickup and daily transitions?

16. What happens if a child gets hurt, sick, overwhelmed, or dysregulated?

Ask about illness, first aid, incident response, and parent notification.

17. What emergency and safety procedures do you have in place?

Fire, medical, evacuation, behavior escalation, etc.

4 | Space & Environment

18. What should I know about the space itself?

Indoor setup, outdoor space, bathroom access, entry and exit, sensory environment, etc.

19. Is the environment calm, structured, flexible, or high-energy?

Does the tone of the environment match what your child needs?

20. Where do transitions tend to get hard, and how are they handled?

This tells you a lot about the day-to-day reality.

5 | Money & Commitment

21. What is the tuition, and what does it include?

Ask what is covered and what is not.

22. Are there any other fees besides tuition?

Registration, supply fees, materials, field trips, snacks, late pickup, etc.

23. What are the payment, deposit, refund, and withdrawal policies?

Get this in writing if possible.

6 | Communication & Trust

24. How do you communicate with parents?

How often, through what channel, and what happens if there is a concern?

25. If we decide to move forward, what happens next?

What are the next steps for enrollment, paperwork, onboarding, orientation, or trial days?

Tour Notes

Use this space to capture what stood out during the visit.

What felt strong?

What still feels unclear?

What follow-up questions do I still have?

How did my child respond, if they attended?

Overall fit:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Strong fit | ☐ Not sure yet |
| ☐ Possible fit | ☐ Not the right fit |

A Good Tour Should Give You Clarity — Not More Confusion

The goal is not to find a “**perfect**” program.

The goal is to find a learning environment that is **clear**, **safe**, **aligned**, and **realistic** for your child and family.

If a program cannot answer basic questions clearly, **that is useful information**.

If the answers sound good but the reality feels off, **trust that too**.

You are allowed to ask questions.

You are allowed to take your time.

You are allowed to choose carefully.

Need help comparing your options?

If you want support thinking through **homeschooling, learning pods, microschools,** or what may be the best fit for your child, we can help.

Book a [Parent Strategy Deep Dive](#)

A focused 1:1 session to help you get clarity on your next step.

OR

Explore the [Learning Pods Network](#)

Find pods, educators, facilitators, and alternative education options.