

Just Right for Me

How to Find the Perfect Preschool Fit for Your Katy Kid

Written by Kenzie Stanfield and Katrina Katsarelis

Select Photography by Marisa Hugonnett



Jackson Day was a finalist in Katy Magazine's Cutest Kid Cover Contest



Melanie Sebastian plays at Katy's Early Childhood Enrichment Center



At Katy's Primrose School, students learn to work in groups



At Katy's Primrose School, children develop skills in subjects like math that will help them later on in kindergarten



Ava Wilson was a finalist in Katy Magazine's Cutest Kid Cover Contest

Prepared for Kindergarten. Prepared for Life.



Children from all nationalities are welcome and will benefit from our proven British curriculum. Using a fun, positive approach, we teach character building life-skills like responsibility, respect, manners, and kindness. Academic and enrichment programs.

Now Enrolling!

- Preschool Programs for 18 mos. – 5 yrs., (P/T & F/T)
- Academics, computers, ballet, gymnastics & Spanish
- Exclusive Bridge to Kindergarten Program
- School Age Care with Before & After School Transportation



Cheryl Sage
President



British Private Prep School

1635 S. FRY RD. KATY, TX WWW.BPPS.GS 281.828.2000
OPEN 6:30AM-6:30PM

Revolutionizing Childcare

An innovative and new approach to childcare education.



- Art & Music
- Foreign Languages
- Creative Movement
- Mathematics

Childcare, Preschool & Enrichment Center
Focusing on Imagination

- 6 weeks - 12 years (after school program)
- Cultural Diversity
- Hormone Free Kitchen
- Indoor Gym
- Welcoming Environment
- Music Room
- Apple Computer Lab



iLearn iPlay iCreate iExplore

281.394.PLAY

imaginationcampus.com

© 2009 Katy Magazine



Each winter, parents across Katy begin the painstaking process of researching, registering, and enrolling their sweet tykes in local preschools. This busy time is sometimes referred to as February Frenzy — the month when many preschools and centers begin the enrollment process for the upcoming school year. Parents across Katy and the U.S. are rounding up information, visiting centers, getting on waiting lists, and researching admission requirements. Although it seems daunting, there are some basic steps to follow to help make preschool selection process a bit easier.

Know What You Want

First, start your search early and begin thinking about what type of preschool will best fit your family's needs. Whether you prefer a traditional academic preschool, a faith-based Christian preschool, a childcare/preschool center, a Montessori program, a language-immersion school, or the newest of all, a hybrid methodology preschool, it's important to narrow down your search. Will you want a preschool with enrichment activities such as gymnastics, foreign language, dance, computers, and science programs? Or do you require a center that caters more to busy families with extra services like on-site meals or extended hours? Knowing what you want is an important first step.

Get Referrals

Once you determine your family's needs, it's then time to find preschools that align with the needs of your child. This might seem overwhelming because there are so many to choose from, but talking with other families can definitely make it easier. Susan Jureka, mother to five Katy kids, says that word of mouth was critical

to her decision to enroll four of her children at Tiger Land childcare center. Since Jureka is a Katy teacher, her initial need for childcare with a smooth transition into preschool made Tiger Land a perfect fit. Stephanie Bogue's experience in finding just the right preschool for her daughter, Lorelie, was similar. She relied on neighbors who recommended a local preschool in Cinco Ranch. "Since we moved to Katy from out of the country, we relied on what people around us were saying," she says.

Ask About Accreditation

There are only a few centers in Katy that have received accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This well known organization issues accreditations based on a long list of criteria. Schools voluntarily undergo a lengthy process and must pass numerous education and quality standards in order to receive accreditation. Katy's Early Childhood Enrichment Center is one of a small handful of accredited programs in Katy, according to NAEYC.org.

Observe the Classroom

Once you've narrowed down your list, it is important to visit each one you are considering. "We encourage parents to try to visit during active classroom activities, so that they can see the classrooms in action and to see how the kids interact amongst themselves and with the teachers," says Steve Sandweiss, owner of Tiger Land childcare Center.

Visiting the school allows you to see if the preschool is a good fit or not. "It's one thing to hear about our school, but it's a totally different

thing to see it first hand,” says Zafar Amin, co-founder of Katy’s Imagination Campus. Some schools have open enrollment, while others begin the process for new students in late winter, typically in February. The earlier you visit schools, the better.

A Foundation for Learning

Once you find a great match, rest assured the time and effort you put in doing your research upfront will be well worth it. Parents across Katy concur that preschool is an excellent stepping stone for transitioning into “big school”. If you find the right facility, your child will learn many things including social skills, how to take turns, how to make friends, and the academic fundamentals to take her successfully into kindergarten. “My daughter was so academically prepared to enter elementary school that it allowed her to make a smooth transition emotionally,” says Bogue. “The love and encouragement given to my kids from their teachers at CrossPoint has assured me that we are right where God wants us,” says Vickerman.

After all is said and done, hopefully you too will look back, as Jureka has, and know you made the right decision. “I have really loved having my kids at Tiger Land,” she says.

KM

KENZIE STANFIELD is a mother of three and wife to her high school sweetheart, Dusty. She is a freelance writer for Katy Magazine and loves documenting life and encouraging others through her family blog.

KATRINA KATSARELIS is the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of Katy Magazine. Prior to starting the magazine, she wrote many parenting, family, and preschool articles for publications across the U.S.

Character development is woven into instruction at the Primrose School in Katy



Jenna Steele fills her shopping cart at Katy Early Childhood Enrichment Center

Tiger Land
Child Care Center

Infants to 12-year-olds
Serving Katy for
20+ years

Now
Enrolling

© 2009 Katy White

Providing before and after school care
for these KISD elementary schools:

Katy Huttsell King Wood Creek Winborn

Now Serving Faith West Academy
and West Houston Charter School

5315 E. 5th St. Katy, Texas 77493 (Just north of 90, and east of Katyland Dr.)
281.391.8750 www.tigerlanddayschool.com

A Child's Reflection

"Through others we become ourselves." – Lev S. Vygotsky



A Child's Reflection provides a pre-school environment where teachers, children, and families from all over the world come together to share their cultures and gain a sense of international awareness. Lessons learned and cultural activities shared create a positive environment filled with possibilities for long term friendships.

- ★ Established in 1984
- ★ Full or part-time care
- ★ Lowest student/teacher ratios
- ★ Nutritious meals and snacks included
- ★ Bridge to Kindergarten Program
- ★ 20,000 sq. ft. of playground
- ★ Yoga, Spanish, and Music classes Included
- ★ Sports, Dance, and Gymnastics Available



(281)492-1229 • 875 S. Fry Rd

www.achildsreflection.net
Caring for children from over 20 different countries!

Grandma's House & West Oaks
Child Development Center Private School



Now Enrolling

Your child's development is our mission! We:

- work to build a foundation for life long learning
- inspire positive feelings and self-esteem
- teach a challenging and stimulating curriculum
- offer enrichment through gymnastics, drama and Spanish

6 weeks to 12 years old
including private 1st and 2nd Grades

281-496-3105

Easy access for Katy commuters through
George Bush Park or Westpark Tollway

14840 Branch Forest Dr. (off Hwy. 6)
westoaksprivate.com

© 2009 Katy Magazine



Katy's Primrose School offers children hands-on activities, like sorting through pasta



Arts and crafts projects foster children's creativity at Katy's Primrose School



Group projects like those at Katy's Primrose School lead to happy, engaged students



Students at Katy's Imagination Campus learn to work together on hands-on projects



Primrose's Reading Center lets children enjoy a book while working on their literacy skills



Enriching Lives... One Child at a Time

Our certified teachers understand the way children develop and learn. We consider the strengths and interests of each child and create a balanced program that will enrich your child's future.

Part-Time & Full-Time • **Nationally Recognized Curriculum**
Spanish, Dance & Gymnastics • Bridge to Kindergarten
Low Student to Teacher Ratio • **Healthy & Safe Environment**



**Katy's Early Childhood
Enrichment Center**

naeyc We are NAEYC Accredited!

25403 Kingsland Blvd (Located behind Katy Mills Mall) | 281-693-1999 | www.katyceec.com



Bryleigh Ross-Machacek won third place in Katy Magazine's Cutest Kid Cover Contest

Ready or Not?

How to tell if your Katy kid is ready for preschool.

- ✓ Is she independent?
- ✓ Has she spent time away from you?
- ✓ Can she work on projects on her own?
- ✓ Is she ready to participate in group activities?
- ✓ Is she used to keeping a regular schedule?
- ✓ Does she have the physical stamina for preschool?

© Katy Magazine 2009

TIMES SQUARE ENTERTAINMENT

BOWLING ★ BILLIARDS ★ LASER TAG ★ ARCADE ★ SPORTS GRILL

PIN BLASTER
1 hour & 30 minutes of bowling (shoes included)
\$5.00 game cards for the arcade

LASER BOWL
1 hour of bowling (shoes included)
30 minutes allocated for Laser Tag
45 minutes in party room

ULTIMATE PARTY
1 hour of bowling (shoes included)
30 minutes allocated for Laser Tag
45 minutes in party room
\$6.50 game cards for the arcade

20% off Kids' Birthday Party Packages

ALL PACKAGES INCLUDE 50% MORE PIZZA & ASSORTED PITCHERS OF SODA

Birthday child receives a \$20 Game Card
Mention this ad to receive discount.
Not valid with any other discount or offer.

Please contact Tiffany Bardwell at 281.395-8550 or tiffany@timesquaretx.com
402 W Grand Pkwy • Katy, TX 77494 (4/10 of a mile South of I-10)

FROZEN ROPES TRAINING CENTER



The Best in Baseball and Softball Instruction has Arrived in Katy!




Private and Group Lessons, Team and League Clinics, Birthday Parties and MORE!

- 17,000 square feet - open span
- 10 spacious hitting or pitching tunnels
- Area's finest equipment in Pro Shop
- Virtual pitching machines for batting practice
- Pro-Mirror Video Analysis - just like the pros!

We have a program for every age and skill level starting with 3 years old (Born to Play).

Frozen Ropes In The News



20,000 Park Row (between Fry and Westgreen) Katy, TX 77450
(281) 578-9790 katy@frozenropes.com www.frozenropes.com/katy

15 QUESTIONS TO ASK

To save a lot of legwork, you can weed out a lot of facilities by asking key questions by phone. When you call, ask to speak to the director and pay attention to how the preschool staff and administration treat you. First impressions can be great predictors of your future satisfaction with the site. Here are some questions to get you started.

- 1 Do you have openings on the days and hours I need?
- 2 How long has the director been at the center?
- 3 What credentials does the director hold?
- 4 What training and ongoing education is required for the staff?
- 5 What forms of discipline does the center use?
- 6 Is there an open door policy?
- 7 Is the center accredited by any agencies?
- 8 What is the cost of registration and tuition?
- 9 What is the student-to-teacher ratio?
- 10 Tell me about my child's class/teacher.
- 11 What curriculum is used?
- 12 What is the age range of children in the class?
- 13 How many students/teachers will be in the class?
- 14 What is the size of my child's classroom (dimensions)?
- 15 Are enrichment or extracurricular activities offered?

WEST HOUSTON'S PREMIER PRIVATE SCHOOL
Infants through Eighth Grade

WINTER OPEN HOUSE
Thursday, January 28, 2010
6:30-8:00PM



Loving, nurturing, joyful
Research-based academic programs
Building faith-based character
Optimism and a commitment to diversity
Enrichment and growth

Holy Spirit Episcopal School prepares your child for their path in the world. Our age-appropriate programs build esteem at every developmental stage of a child's life. Please call today to schedule your tour at our school.

 **Holy Spirit**
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

12535 Perthshire Road
Houston, TX 77024-4186
713.468.5138
www.hses.org

Katy Taekwondo & Jiu-Jitsu
A Decade of Martial Arts Excellence!
281-829-9300
625 S MASON RD @ KIMBERLAND BLVD

Sr. Certified Instructor
Mr. Angus Pollard

Start-Up Course
\$19.95
Includes Free Uniform
(\$50 value)

CURRICULUM FOR

- TIGERS (4-5 YRS)
- JUNIORS (6-12 YRS)
- TEENS

ADULT CLASSES OFFERED NIGHTLY.
WEEKDAYS AT NOON & SATURDAYS

CONVENIENT CLASS SCHEDULE

**Strength of Mind.
Strength of Body.
Strength of Character.**

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN KATY!
INTERNATIONALLY CERTIFIED HIGH RANK INSTRUCTORS
& SAFETY EXPERTS
STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY

WWW.KATYTKD.COM

*"I can't think of a better activity for children or adults."
—Laura S.,
Katy ISD Teacher
& TD Mom*



Ben Sippel



“I Found MY PLACE!”

New Early Learning Center in Cinco Ranch



- ▶ Programs for 6 weeks to 12 years
- ▶ Diapers, wipes and formula included
- ▶ Low student-teacher ratio
- ▶ Certified teachers
- ▶ Dance, karate, gym, Spanish & computer programs

FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICES

- * Porter Help with Infants * Before and After School Program * CC TV in all rooms
- * Breakfast, Lunch and Snacks
- * Special Needs * Accredited Curriculum

OPERATING HOURS:

Mon.-Fri. 6:30 AM TO 7:00 PM

EXTENDED HOURS

FRI 7 PM – MIDNIGHT

SAT. 10 AM- MIDNIGHT



MY PLACE

Early Learning Center

24034 Cinco Village Center Blvd., Katy, TX 77494
(2 Blocks from La Centerra)

myplacecincoranch.com 281-392-5900

© Katy Magazine 2009

Enrolling Now!



Open House
Every Saturday

ONE WEEK FREE!

Mention this ad for
a free week of tuition!



Madison Young was a finalist in our Cutest Kid Cover Contest

Katy Area Childcare & Preschool Guide



A Child's Reflection

875 S. Fry Rd.
281-492-1229 (ad on pg 117)



British Private Prep School

1635 S. Fry Rd.
281-828-2000 (ad on pg 114)

Building Blocks Learning Center

20144 Morton Rd.
281-579-9020

Children's Lighthouse

23060 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-395-4466

Childtime Learning Center

22022 Highland Knolls Dr.
281-392-2400

Childtime Learning Center

3170 N. Fry Rd.
281-646-8330

Cinco Cottage Montessori School

23144 Cinco Ranch Blvd.
281-693-3300

Cinco Ranch Montessori School

2530 S. Peek Rd.
281-392-0011



Crossing Borders Pre-K Spanish Immersion Program

281-465-0899 (ad on pg 81)



Faith West Academy Preschool

2225 Porter Rd.
281-391-5683 (ad on pg 137)

Five Star Montessori School

18200 Kingsland Blvd.
281-578-1616



Foundations Academy

20617 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-599-1200
(ad on pg 126)



Grandma's House

14840 Branch Forest Dr.
281-496-3105 (ad on pg 117)



Imagination Campus

26440 FM 1093
832-282-0351 (ad on pg 114)



Katy's Early Childhood Enrichment Center

25403 Kingsland Blvd.
281-693-1999
(ad on pg 118)

Katy Montessori School

20660 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-398-7323

KGTA Montessori

21020 Highland Knolls Dr.
281-646-7360

Kidco Learning Center

2437 N. Fry Rd.
281-646-7600

Kids R Kids

21955 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-828-2273

Kids R Kids

18150 Park Cypress
281-599-0079

Kids R Kids

24007 Franz Rd.
281-347-5444



Kids R Kids

10602 S. Fry Rd.
281-392-1414 (ad on pg 111)



Kids R Kids

25950 Cinco Ranch Blvd.
281-392-1370 (ad on pg 111)

Kindercare

19510 Clay Rd.
281-550-1610

Kindercare

2202 N. Fry Rd.
281-578-1415

Knowledge Beginnings

6130 S. Fry Rd.
281-693-6556

Learning Center

3700 S. Mason Rd.
281-392-2273

Little Angels Private School

940 S. Fry Rd.
281-578-1505

Little Hands Big Hearts

1806 Ave. D #102
281-391-9509

Little Lords & Ladies Childcare

1941 Westborough Dr.
281-829-1175

Little Thinkers

2944 S. Mason Rd.,
Ste. L, 281-395-1095



My Place Early Learning Center

24034 Cinco Village Center
281-392-5900 (ad on pg 121)

MDO & Preschool Bear Creek Baptist

5901 N. Fry Rd.
281-859-7455




Primrose School

1540 Peek Rd.
281-693-7711 (ad on pg 37)



Primrose School

2402 Westgreen Blvd.
281-828-1600 (ad on pg 37)

 **Primrose School**
21480 Park Row Blvd.
281-492-7400 (ad on pg 37)

Roots of Learning
22711 Franz Rd.
281-347-3401

Scribbles Academy & Montessori
940 S. Fry Rd.
281-578-1505

Scribbles Preschool
5722 Third St.
281-391-5437

Sugar Creek Montessori School of Katy
7222 Gaston Rd.
281-693-7267

 **The Goddard School**
24025 Cinco Village Center Blvd.
281-392-1912
(ad on pg 145)

The Learning Center at Living Word Lutheran Church
3700 S. Mason Rd.
281-392-2273

 **Tiger Land**
5315 E. Fifth St.
281-391-8750
(ad on pg 116)

PRESCHOOLS PART-TIME

Child Enrichment Center at Kingsland Baptist Church
20555 Kingsland Blvd.
281-579-9232

Child's Play at Epiphany of the Lord
1530 Norwalk
281-578-9332

CrossPoint Christian School
700 S. Westgreen Blvd.
281-398-6464

First Steps at Katy First Baptist Church
600 Pin Oak Rd.
281-391-1105

Grace Preschool at Grace Fellowship
2655 S. Mason Rd.
281-398-3412

His Kids Weekday Preschool at Second Baptist Church
19449 Katy Fwy.
713-365-3401

Holy Covenant CDC at Holy Covenant United Methodist Church
22111 Morton Rd.
281-579-8687

Life Christian Preschool
2610 Greenbusch Rd.
281-395-5433


Little People's School at Katy First Methodist
5601 Fifth St.
281-394-6577

Little Ranch Preschool
6655 S. Mason Rd.
281-579-3100

Memorial Lutheran Preschool
5810 Third St.
281-391-0172

New Hope CDC
1350 N. Mason Rd.
281-492-8521

Our Little Saints at Grace Christian Church
2001 Greenbusch Rd.
281-395-4722


 **Oxford Preparatory Academy**
14526 Old Katy Rd. #105
832-744-6975
(ad on pg 159)


Pre-K at KVPAC
501 S. Mason Rd., Ste. 290
281-829-2787

St. Peter's Early CDC
20775 Kingsland Blvd.
281-492-0623

Tiny Treasures Preschool
2855 Greenhouse Rd.
281-492-2689

Treasure Cove at Fellowship of Cinco Ranch
22765 Westheimer Pkwy.
281-395-3950

 **Westlake Preparatory**
23300 Bellaire Blvd.
281-341-9914 (ad on pg 85)

 Denotes Katy Magazine Advertiser

Delivering Katy's Future...



One baby at a time.

© 2009 Katy Magazine



John T. Pappadas, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology

~ 18 Years of Experience

~ Attentive, Compassionate Patient Care

~ Warm, Friendly Office Staff

281-579-9056

707 South Fry Road, Suite 475

Katy, Texas 77450

Christus St. Catherine Center