

Why This Checklist?

India's NEP 2020 sets clear standards for Early Childhood Care & Education.

A quality preschool should meet every one of these — and go further.

1. Child Safety & Emergency Preparedness

- ☐ Security guard or access control at the entrance.
- ☐ Staircase railings at a child-safe height.
- ☐ Door gap safety guards on all classroom doors.
- ☐ Electrical socket covers throughout the building.
- ☐ Rounded, soft-edged furniture; no sharp corners.
- ☐ Fire extinguishers installed and clearly visible.
- ☐ Staff trained in First Aid, CPR, and choking response.

2. A Classroom Built for Your Child's Height

- ☐ Shelves and displays placed at child's eye level (~2.5 ft).
- ☐ Child-sized furniture; chairs, tables, and storage.
- ☐ Visually engaging walls with age-appropriate displays.
- ☐ Materials that children can access independently.

3. Light, Air & a Comfortable Environment

- ☐ Classrooms with natural light, not only tube lights.
- ☐ Good ventilation or temperature control.
- ☐ Clean, clutter-free spaces that feel calm and welcoming.
- ☐ Hygienic toilets designed for small children.

4. Safe Outdoor/Indoor Play Space

- ☐ A dedicated outdoor play area.
- ☐ Age-appropriate play equipment in good condition.
- ☐ Soft landing surface under climbing structures.
- ☐ Children supervised by staff during outdoor time.

5. Connection with Nature

- ☐ Children get regular time outdoors each day.
- ☐ Plants, soil, or garden elements to explore.
- ☐ Nature-based activities; mud play, water, seeds.
- ☐ Sensory experiences beyond screens and worksheets.
- ☐ Sustainable practices that nurture environmental responsibility.

6. Hands-On, Experiential Learning

- ☐ Children learn by touching, exploring, and doing.
- ☐ Play-based activities, not rote memorisation.
- ☐ Manipulatives, art, blocks, and loose parts available.
- ☐ Stories, movement, music woven into daily learning.

7. Passionate, Well-Trained Educators

- ☐ Educators hold an early childhood qualification.
- ☐ Staff receive ongoing professional development.
- ☐ Low child-to-teacher ratio; personalised attention.
- ☐ Educators speak warmly; observe tone and body language.

8. Every Child is Celebrated

- ☐ School tracks each child's development individually.
- ☐ Children's artwork displayed with their names.
- ☐ Diverse abilities and backgrounds warmly welcomed.
- ☐ Meaningful parent communication; not generic reports.

9. A Future-Ready, NEP 2020-Aligned Curriculum

- ☐ Curriculum builds creativity, critical thinking & collaboration.
- ☐ No pressure for marks or grades at preschool age.
- ☐ Cultural stories and Indian heritage woven into learning.
- ☐ Aligned with NEP 2020 ECCE guidelines for ages 3-6.

10. Nutrition, Hygiene & Whole-Child Wellbeing

- ☐ Freshly prepared, nutritious meals; not packaged food.
- ☐ Children encouraged to eat independently.
- ☐ Personal hygiene habits taught as daily routines.
- ☐ Emotional wellbeing: children feel safe, heard, and happy.
- ☐ Mindfulness practices that strengthen focus and self-awareness.