

The National Association of Young Children (NAEYC) suggests parents/guardians look for these signs to make sure their child is in a good classroom.

Children spend most of their time playing and working with materials or other children. They are not expected to sit quietly for long periods of time.

Children have access to various activities throughout the day. Look for building blocks and other construction materials, props for pretend play, picture books, paints and other art materials, and table toys such as matching games, pegboards and puzzles. Children should not be doing the same thing at the same time.

Teachers work with individual children, small groups and the whole group at different times during the day. They do not spend all their time with the whole group.

The classroom is decorated with children's original artwork, their own writing with invented spelling and stories dictated by children to teachers.

Children learn numbers and the alphabet in the context of their everyday experiences. The natural world of plants and animals and meaningful activities like cooking, taking attendance or serving snacks provide the basis for learning activities.

Children have long periods of time (at least one hour) to play and explore. Worksheets are used little if at all.

Children have an opportunity to play outside every day. Outdoors play is never sacrificed for more instructional time.

Teachers read books to children individually or in small groups throughout the day, not just at group story time.

Curriculum is adapted for those who are ahead as well as those who need additional help. Teachers recognize that children's different background and experiences mean that they do not learn the same things at the same time in the same way.

Children and their parents look forward to school. Parents feel secure sending their child to the program. Children are happy to attend; they do not cry regularly or complain of feeling sick.

Petal CHILD CARE CENTERS



Outside of the home, childcare facilities and other caregivers can be the strongest resources for helping to grow healthy children.

The Center for Families and Children and the Mississippi State Resource and Referral Center are happy to partner with Petal centers to offer training and resources with one goal in mind— children coming to school with the skills they need to be successful.

*Compiled by :
Petal School District
Center for
Families & Children
201 W. Central Ave.
Petal, MS 39465
Ph. 601-584-4704*

Full-Time Programs

- **C.H. Johnson Head Start**
201 West Central Avenue
Director: Patricia Mitchell
Phone: 601-544-4195

- **Kid's Academy**
304 East Cherry Drive
Director: Chrissy Fagan-Dykes
Phone: 601-297-5437

- **Mimi's Playhouse**
439 Old Corinth Road
Directors: Sherri Sundeen,
David Sundeen & Mary Craig
Phone: 601-584-6107

- **Oasis Training Center**
153 Sheeplo Loop
Director: Edna Bridges
Phone: 601-583-4045

- **Play-School Childcare Center**
108 Valley Drive
Director: Margie Nobles
Phone: 601-544-4018

PETAL CHILD CARE CENTERS

Part-Time Programs

- **Asbury PlaySchool Program**
1331 Highway 42
Director: Cindy McDonald
Phone: 601-582-4686

- **Cartersville Christian School**
1115 Cartersville Road
Director: Lindsay Skipper
Phone: 601-545-1010



After School/Summer Care

- **Main Street Station**
208 South Main Street
Director: Bubba Nobles
Phone: 601-544-0810
- **Oasis Training Center**
153 Sheeplo Loop
Director: Edna Bridges
Phone: 601-583-4045
- **Petal Family YMCA**
547 Hillcrest Loop
Director: Ginny Reynolds
Phone: 601-583-9399

***Petal - Mississippi's First
Certified Excel By 5 Community***

Excel By 5 is an innovative program emphasizing the important role parents and early childhood educators play in the lives of children during their most formative years-birth to age five.

The goal is for children to be healthier and better prepared for kindergarten which is accomplished by creating a "child friendly" environment. That means that, as a program and as a community, parents and children are connected to the available resources and services they need to lead healthy, strong lives.

To learn more about Excel By 5 Petal contact the Center for Families and Children at 601-584-4704.

