



# School Comparison Worksheet **PAGE 1**

- Use the information you have gathered about schools to do a side-by-side comparison of both fit and quality. If you are comparing more than five schools, you will need to use two of these worksheets.
- List school names at the top of the school columns to right (use school initials or abbreviations to fit).
- Page 1: Transfer information to the first three blank columns from your *Personalized Great Fit Checklist*. Place your grades for each school on each Fit Factor below school name. Compare how well schools fit your child and family needs.

FIT FACTOR	CHILD & FAMILY NEEDS: Must Haves & top Nice to Haves	MUST HAVE	NICE TO HAVE	SCHOOL #1 _____	SCHOOL #2 _____	SCHOOL #3 _____	SCHOOL #4 _____	SCHOOL #5 _____
Your Child Learns								
How Your Child Learns								
Schedule								
Parental Involvement								

Continues...

Adapted from *Picky Parent's Guide to Choosing the Best School for Your Child* by Brian C. Havel, Ph.D. and Emil A. Havel. © 2004-2005 by Anchai, Inc., LLC. Used with permission.

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School Choice Week **PAGE 2**

- Page 2: Grade the quality of your school options. Use school information available on GreatSchools.net and clarifying questions found in *Picky Parent Guide* to help.
- Review pages 1 and 2 and compare the schools. Highlight particular strengths and weaknesses of each school. Remember, not all items listed here are equal in importance for you and your child.
  - ✓ Must Haves and quality should weigh more heavily in your decision than Nice to Haves.
  - ✓ *Picky Parent Guide* provides *Child, Family and Quality: Ways to Get What You Don't Get at School* tables to help you decide which Must Haves and quality weaknesses you can best accommodate outside of school, if needed.

GREAT SCHOOL QUALITY FACTORS	SCHOOL #1	SCHOOL #2	SCHOOL #3	SCHOOL #4	SCHOOL #5
<b>1. Clear Mission Guiding School Activities:</b> Everyone knows and uses the school's goals.					
<b>2. High Expectations for All Students:</b> Kids like mine make grade level and all teachers raise goals for kids who are ahead.					
<b>3. Monitoring Progress, and Adjusting Teaching:</b> Teachers check to see what kids have learned often (weekly ideal) and change how they teach to meet individual kids' needs.					
<b>4. Focus on Effective Learning Tasks:</b> Teachers spend a lot of time on activities <i>proven</i> to work with kids at the school.					
<b>5. Parental Involvement:</b> Parents know what children are learning and how to help at home.					
<b>6. Safe and Focused Learning Environment:</b> Children are safe and focused on learning at school.					
<b>7. Teacher Retention:</b> The leader makes sure that great teachers stay, low-performing teachers go, and all do their best work on #1-6.					