

# Notes

For more information about what special services are available go to:

<https://insideschools.org/inside-tools/about-special-education>



## InsideSchools



Touring schools for your special needs child

A checklist for parents by InsideSchools staff



For parents, by parents, your free independent guide to New York City public schools.

**InsideSchools.org**

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# InsideSchools can help you...


## Make the most of your school visits


**If your child has special needs, you are entitled to visit a school before you enroll your child.**


**Here are some things to consider:**


 How big is the school? Will it be overwhelming for your child?


 What is the noise level? Is there a place to be quiet and alone in the classroom?


 Are classrooms cluttered or tidy?

 How do the teachers manage behavior? Do they speak loudly or softly? Are they in control of the classroom?


 Do children know what to expect? It helps if instructions are shown in words and pictures. Daily schedules help too.

 Does the class have more than one adult? If so, your child will probably get more attention.


 Are children working in small groups on different projects? That's a good sign. It means teachers are adapting lessons for children who learn at different speeds.

 Everyone needs physical activity, whether it's a yoga or dance class, physical education in the gym, or running around the playground.



 Are there tools to make learning easier? iPads and audio books (with earphones) can help a child who has trouble writing, communicating, or reading. Simple tools, like a ball chair for a wiggly child, or pencil grips and special scissors, can make a difference.



 Arts are important for everyone, but particularly for children with special needs. A poor reader may get a chance to shine in drama, music, or art.

**Don't be afraid to ask questions! You have to be a fierce advocate for your child.**