

12 THINGS TO LOOK FOR WHEN TOURING PROGRAMS //////////////

When touring adult day programs, families and caregivers should look for signs that the program is safe, supportive, and a good fit for the individual's needs and goals. Here are some key things to consider:

1. Is the place safe and accessible?
 - Clean, well-maintained facilities that are accessible (ramps, wide doorways, adapted restrooms).
 - Clear safety procedures, including emergency plans and staff training.
 - Secure environment while still allowing independence.
2. Are all staff trained and equipped to do their job?
 - Qualifications and experience of staff.
 - Staff training in behavior management, communication, medical needs, and inclusion.
3. Does the program have a welcoming environment?
 - Warm, respectful interactions between staff and participants.
 - The physical environment have pictures on the walls, inviting furniture.
4. Program Structure and Activities
 - Staff-to-participant ratios that allow for individualized attention.
 - A variety of meaningful activities (life skills, vocational training, recreation, community outings).
 - Person-centered planning tailored to each individual's goals, interests, and abilities.
 - Opportunities for skill-building, independence, and social engagement.
 - Balance between structured activities and choice.
4. Health and Personal Care
 - Support for medical needs (medication administration, health monitoring, therapies if needed).
 - Attention to personal care, hygiene, and dignity.
 - Clear policies for handling emergencies or behavioral challenges.
5. Community Integration
 - Opportunities for participants to be involved in the community (volunteering, recreation, work experiences).
 - Partnerships with local organizations and businesses.



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6. What is the average age of the consumers?
7. What does communication and family involvement look like?
 - Regular communication with families about progress, challenges, and activities.
 - Openness to family input and collaboration in goal setting.
 - How does staff communicate with the adults in the program.
8. What is the overall atmosphere like?
 - Do participants appear happy, engaged, and respected?
 - Is the environment welcoming, inclusive, and supportive of choice and independence?
9. What about your rights and disputes?
 - Are consumer rights built into the program and taught.
 - What is the grievance process.
 - Is the grievance process posted on the walls.
 - How do they handle personal/confidential information.
10. What does the program prepare students for and how? Their Priorities?
 - Postsecondary education
 - Employment
 - Independent/supported living.
 - As much independence as possible.
 - Variety of activities, trips, etc.
11. What are other things to consider?
 - The hours of the program.
 - Program requirements for attendance.
 - Will they allow you to observe a typical day, talk to staff and participants, and review the program's goals and success stories.
12. Does this program feel like a good fit for your loved one's needs, interests, and goals?

