

Finding the Right Fit:

5 Key Considerations

When Choosing a School for Your Child with Neurological Motor Disabilities

Every parent wants to see their child thrive and grow up to be independent. When you're a parent of a child with neurological motor disabilities, achieving that independence requires the help of a supportive community that understands your child's unique abilities.

Children with neurological motor disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, often face challenges with gross and fine motor skills, mobility and balance, social skills, communication, and speech. Finding the right educational environment for them can make a significant difference.

A school that supports and equips your child with the skills to manage these daily challenges is essential for their development, well-being, and future opportunities. In your search for the right environment, here are some considerations to keep in mind:



1. Nurturing Independence: Does the school work toward maximizing your child's potential for independence through its educational approach?

Look for a school that celebrates your child's unique abilities and utilizes an educational approach that promotes independence. For example, Conductive Education (CE) is a method that integrates an intensive and motivating approach to the development of gross and fine motor skills, mobility and balance, flexibility and motion, social skills, communication, and speech. Activities are designed to be both challenging and achievable, fostering a sense of accomplishment as your child develops the physical, cognitive, and social skills needed for daily life.

2. Individualized Education: Does the school offer a personalized approach that caters to your child's specific needs and goals?

CE emphasizes individualized learning. Look for a school with specialized instructors and assistants who work closely with each student. Smaller class sizes allow for individual attention and support, helping your child thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Dedicated staff become like family, understanding your student's strengths and challenges. Personalized learning plans ensure each student progresses at their own pace, building confidence and independence.

3. Celebrating Peers: Does the school environment encourage your child to learn and grow alongside their peers in a supportive group setting?

Friendships are a vital part of the school experience. It's important to choose a school where your child can interact with peers who inspire their growth. Group settings in CE provide a safe and supportive space for students to build friendships, practice social skills, and learn to navigate group dynamics. Through interaction and collaboration, students gain confidence in social situations and motivate each other to persevere and challenge themselves.

4. Comprehensive Development: Does the school offer diverse programs that address all areas of your child's development?

Transitioning between schools can be challenging for individuals with neurological motor disabilities. Traditional education programs often end after students turn 22, leaving them without opportunities to continue their education or maintain the social connections and friendships they've developed throughout the program.

Look for a school offering programs from early intervention to adulthood. This continuity minimizes disruptions and ensures familiarity for your child. Educators who understand your child's needs from the start can provide consistent support and personalized learning at every stage. Plus, various program options, including virtual learning, give families the flexibility to find the best fit for their needs.

5. Learning Through Doing: Does the school provide opportunities for your child to gain confidence by expanding their skills beyond the classroom?

Academics are important, but education shouldn't stop there. Look for a school that incorporates life skills into their program. Imagine your child learning about finances and budgets, making healthy meal choices, and helping with the laundry. CE programs go beyond academics to help each child build confidence and become as independent as possible. Activities like car washes, lemonade stands, holiday shops, and book fairs are more than just fun — they're opportunities to develop essential skills and gain confidence in navigating everyday life.

Additional Tips

- Visit the school: Schedule a visit to observe the environment and interact with staff and students.
- Ask questions: Inquire about the school's approach to individualized education, staff qualifications, and program offerings.
- Seek testimonials: Talk to other parents and families about their experiences with the school.

About CECO

At the Conductive Education Center of Orlando (CECO), we understand the complexities of selecting the right school for your child. As one of the largest conductive education centers in the U.S. and the only one in Florida, CECO believes there is no limit to what one individual can do. From early childhood intervention through adulthood, CECO offers seven unique programs catering to individuals of all ages with neurological motor disabilities. CECO's mission is to provide innovative programs for lifelong learning and development that transform lives through conductive education that integrates physical, cognitive, and social skills.

For more information, visit [CECO.org](https://www.ceco.org) or contact us at info@ceco.org.

