

KIDS INCORPORATED

By Jen Abrams

F.Y.I.

Short cut. If your little one can't stand to get snipped, check out the new Sharkey's kids-only salon, where fans of glam can get a mini-cure in front of a movie star-style vanity, and little hell-raisers can get their cut atop a faux motorcycle. Kids can also watch a DVD or play video games while getting a trim. **Sharkey's Cuts for Kids:** 795 E. Lancaster Ave., Villanova; 610-519-9200; sharkeys-cutsforkids.com



MOM'S THE WORD

Soon after Corinn Rocker had her first child, she realized the same thing many first-time mothers do: babies don't come with instruction manuals. The MBA and former publishing executive felt there was a lack of educational and social outlets, and she decided to do something about it. The result: Mommies Dish, a new business catering to moms and moms-to-be with parenting-related events throughout the region. It's part speaker series, part play group and part support group — and kids are invited, too. Check out the upcoming session on choosing a preschool, with top pediatricians, psychologists and school administrators. **Mommies Dish:** 215-432-7034; mommiesdish.com. Event: *The ABCs of Preschool:* Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m., at Blush, 29 N. Merion Ave., Bryn Mawr.



PRESCHOOL 101

The first day of school is a big step, so find the one that's right for you and your child

Check out a...	If you want your child to...	Philosophy and emphasis:	What they'll be doing...	Find it at...
traditional school	learn in a conventional classroom.	In a more typical teacher-student relationship, children are propelled toward age-appropriate development in settings that can range from very academic to more social.	Conventional academics are the focus, including skills such as telling time, mastering the alphabet and introduction to phonics.	Upper Main Line YMCA, Berwyn umly.org
Montessori school	establish independence in a self-paced environment.	These schools stress individuality and autonomy, allowing children to learn at their own pace. Teachers emphasize social development, creative problem solving and real-world skills.	Children learn via practical life experiences, sensory exercises, math, language and cultural studies. They clean and care for their own child-sized environment.	Gladwyne Montessori gladwyne.org
Waldorf school	have an arts-based learning experience that nourishes the imagination.	A holistic approach stresses learning through nature, art and creativity. Beyond preschool, the teacher ideally remains with a class from first through eighth grades, creating a strong relationship with children and parents.	Children knit, bake bread, raise animals and create artwork, engaging in storytelling, puppetry, singing, games and foreign language studies.	Kimberton Waldorf School, Phoenixville kimberton.org
religious school	gain a theological footing.	The classic preschool experience, plus varying degrees of religious education. The emphasis is on both socialization and pre-academic skills.	Traditional academic studies, plus lessons in prayer, religious culture and history are the norm.	Beth Hillel-Beth El, Wynnewood, tbhbe.org Wayne Presbyterian waynepres.org
international school	learn different languages while gaining a wide worldview.	The focus is on multicultural development and bilingual learning through a dual curriculum, with an emphasis on languages, academic subjects and appreciation for other cultures.	A traditional curriculum, but taught in two languages with an emphasis on international studies.	French International School of Philadelphia, Bala Cynwyd efiponline.com
Reggio Emilia school	engage in creative, non-traditional learning.	Just a handful of these schools exist in the U.S., focusing on the development of thinking skills through art and nature. Teachers encourage alternative means of self-expression.	Children choose their own activities, work on long term projects and express themselves through "symbolic languages" like art, singing or dance.	Project P.L.A.Y. School, Cheltenham projectplayschool.com