Choosing a child care program is a very important decision. Depending on the area in which you live, there are different options available. Things to consider when choosing a child care include: how much it costs and what ages children are accepted.

I. **Day Care Center**: Child care for 13 or more children ages 4 weeks to 13 years. License required.
   A. Advantages: Cares for basic needs of child, concern for child only
   B. Disadvantages: Crowded, high ratios
      a. Day care centers in your area
         1.
         2.
         3.

II. **Home Day Care**: Child care within a family home that provides care for 4 or more children but no more than 6. Usually children have to be 6 to 8 weeks of age.
   A. Advantages: Homelike, low ratios
   B. Disadvantages: Not structured, difficult to enforce licensing and credentials of caregivers, can be more costly than day care
      a. Home day care centers in your area
         1.
         2.
         3.

III. **Head Start**: Helps low-income children enter kindergarten at a higher educational level
   A. Advantages: Meals, shots, health care, professional staff, government funded, and transportation
   B. Disadvantages: Entering children may be low performing and have emotional problems
      a. Head Start programs in your area
         1.
         2.
         3.
IV. **Montessori Schools**: Children learn by playing on their own with Montessori toys, using concrete objects and 5 senses.

A. Advantages: Teaches self-motivation and basic life skills
B. Disadvantages: Expensive, low teacher interaction
   a. Montessori Schools in your area
      1. 
      2. 
      3. 

V. **Nursery School**: Kindergarten prep, promotes intellectual development, can have programs for children as young as 2.

A. Advantages: Program designed for overall growth of child
B. Disadvantages: Expensive ($125-$275 per month), usually only a half day program
   a. Name nursery schools in your area.
      1. 
      2. 
      3. 