



KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is often a child's first exposure to formal schooling, so finding the right one for your child is important. HAIS member schools offer a rich variety of programs and approaches to explore. Please don't limit your search to just one or two schools. Collect information from many different schools to see which program best meets your child's needs.

Generally speaking, you will need to begin the kindergarten application process in the fall for the next school year. Please be aware that some application deadlines are as early as October. Schools will make selections based on some or all of the following:

- Teacher reference reports / Progress reports
- Testing
- Activity session and observation

Some questions and answers that may help you begin the process follow:

When will my child be ready for kindergarten?

Most kindergarten programs have birthday "cut-off" dates which mean a child must have turned five by the date listed. Though these dates may seem arbitrary, they are based on each school's experience with developmental readiness in children and on the school's philosophy, mission, and curriculum.

What are the teacher reference reports?

These are reports written by your child's teacher or preschool director and sent directly to the Admission Director of the school to which your child is applying. In order to ensure complete and accurate information, these reports are confidential. Admission directors of HAIS member schools have informed preschools that the information included on the reference form should be consist

Can I prepare my child for the "test" or observation?

Admission Directors of HAIS member schools believe strongly that preschools should not base their curricula around preparing a child for various admission testing. However, there are some things that parents can do. Please don't pass your worries on to your child. Help your child see the activity session or readiness test as an adventure. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep, has a good breakfast, and wears comfortable clothes. Plan to arrive a few minutes early so your child doesn't feel rushed. Parents may also wish to inquire if they can pre-visit the school so their child will be in familiar surroundings on the appointment day.

The most important thing for parents to remember is that this test or observation is only one part of the kindergarten admission process. Admission Directors will be looking at the "whole" child in making their selections. In like token, you must evaluate each kindergarten program to see if it will meet the needs of your child.