

## BEFORE YOUR CHILD GOES TO FIRST GRADE...

\***Each parent** that is a citizen of Slovak Republic and their child has Slovak citizenship has the legal obligation to **enrol their child** at a primary school in Slovak Republic regardless of where they live at the moment. The child must satisfy the condition of reaching the **age of commencement of compulsory school attendance**, i.e. the child turns **6 years of age** to 1 September of the respective school year.

\*In case **the child has double citizenship**, the parent does not need to enrol their child if the child attends a school in the other state according to its legislation.

\*You may enrol your child also **without their presence**. A parent and/or legal representative of the child may **authorize** somebody in Slovakia to enrol their child at any primary school in Slovakia. The authorized person should submit child's birth certificate, authorization from the child's legal representative and their own ID card.

\***During the enrolment the parent shall inform the Headmaster of the school** that the child shall attend a school abroad and **shall fill in a written application**. In case there are no doubts as to the parenthood and responsibility of the applicant **the Headmaster shall issue decision** that the child may attend school abroad.

\*The same conditions apply also for a disabled child that is capable of being educated.

\*In case that both the child and their parents are **citizens of SR and do not enrol their child** after the child reaches the age of commencement of compulsory school attendance, **they will violate the law** and should remedy it as soon as possible. The best way how to do so is to address a Headmaster of a primary school in Slovakia and agree on postponed enrolment. Such school will then act as a **fundamental school for the child** and the child will attend examinations there.

\***A child** that is educated **abroad** attends the school in the respective country and once in a time it must attend **cross-examinations** in Slovakia on their fundamental school from those subjects that are not taught in the foreign school and are compulsory for Slovak schools. Only in such case the child will obtain Slovak school report.

\*Each year the enrolment in primary schools is held within **1 April to 30 April**.

\*Exact date is **selected by the Headmaster** of the respective school.

\*During enrolment **you must submit** the ID card of the legal representative, child's birth certificate and in case of a disabled child also a certificate of their physical disability.

\*Enrolment in primary school is not limited by the number of pupils. If the parent decides that their child shall attend other than the enrolled school, they may enrol them to a new school but **notify the previous school in time** (there is not a legally stipulated period of time but you should do this until the end of August) that their child shall attend another school. .

\*The parent and/or legal representative of the child has the right to require **postponement of school attendance by one school year** from the following reasons: health condition of the child, psychological immaturity, too strong emotional bond of the child to their parents and/or long-term stay abroad of both parent and child.

\* **Parents shall notify the Headmaster of the school on their decision** during enrolment and **apply in writing** for the postponement of compulsory school attendance by one school year. The application can, but does not have to, be reasoned by the viewpoint of a doctor, psychologist or nursery school headmaster.

\***Headmaster** of the school must issue their written **decision** regarding the application.

\*In case that even after one-year postponement the child still is **not mature enough for primary school**, parent should make an appointment in a centre of pedagogic-psychologic counselling in order to find out the most suitable form of education for their child (special primary school, zero grade, specialized or special class in a primary school).

\***Parents have the right** to choose any school for their child. In case they decide for a school outside their permanent residence (outside the respective school district), they enrol their child after the agreement with the Headmaster of the respective school. If they decide for a school in the area of their permanent residence (respective school district), this school is obliged to admit their child.

\*Parents should find out **references about schools** from which they plan to select one for their child.

\*Optimal procedure is to **visit the school** together with their child during Open Day and find out whether their child likes the premises, how many parents are interested in that school, what is the number of students in classes, whether the school applies verbal assessment or classification and why. Parents should also obtain information about the school system within the scope of verbal assessment and classification, criteria for classification, monitoring of educational achievement of children, monitoring of emotional intelligence, how the school communicates with children and their parents, if the school cooperates with the centre of pedagogic-psychological counselling, what is the condition of school canteen, if the school integrates intellectually gifted children, how the school organizes leisure time activities, if the school has suitable and high-quality pedagogic conditions for teaching foreign languages from first grade, options of teaching other

foreign languages, material and technical equipment of school, form of cooperation of school with parents and other institutions, etc.

### **\*WHAT SHOULD A CHILD KNOW BEFORE STARTING SCHOOL**

„The child should know enough vocabulary, have clear and fluent **speech**, adequate memory, attention. The child should **know**: their full name, address, members of the family, days of the week, seasons of the year (months), basic colours, geometric shapes, names of common animals, plants, parts of the body. The child should also be socially mature and know the basics of table manners, basics of traffic behaviour, orientation in the neighbourhood of their house/school.

The child should be in contact with children, with adults, hold writing instruments in a correct way, copy the forms of letters, distinguish games from responsibilities, respect authorities, cooperate and pay attention for 45 minutes “.

#### **THE CHILD HAS TO PAY ATTENTION TO:**

Hygienic skills – put their clothes and shoes on, wash hands independently.

Healthy nutrition – enough movement, enough sleep, healthy food.

What the child learns – learn to do well – cleaning teeth, washing hands, holding a pencil, speak, breath, walk.

Social skills – behave at the table, greet, tidy toys, share toys.

Education towards tolerance – love everything and everyone.

#### **WHAT TO DEVELOP WITH THE CHILD:**

Speech – correct pronunciation, readiness of expression, development of vocabulary, grammatically correct speech. Reading – parents should read books to children; speak about the read text, teach nursery rhymes, songs, poems. Senses – VISUAL ANALYSIS – puzzles, building bricks, memo, cubes, dominoes, worksheets;

LISTENING ANALYSIS – differentiate sounds, direction of sounds, clapping the number of syllables, phonemes(long/short), specify the first phoneme in a word, match individual phonemes (T-R-A-C-T-O-R=tractor), divide words into syllables (RO-BOT) and into phonemes (R-O-B-O-T). Motor skills – GROSS – during various games: jumping, running, catching a ball, throwing a ball, rope-jumping; FINE – correct way of holding a pencil, drawing, colouring, tearing paper, cutting, modelling, playing with beads, with small balls;

LEFT-RIGHT ORIENTATION – on their body, in the building, in a picture, on a sheet of paper, coordination of movements; ORIENTATION IN SPACE AND TIME – at home, in the building, in the neighbourhood, in books and worksheets, days of the week, sooner/later, yesterday/today/tomorrow, opposites (long-short, tall/small); EYE-HAND COORDINATION – eye exercise, eye concentration; GRAPHOMOTOR SKILLS – draw lines, waves, eights, basic geometric shapes; Mathematic concepts – small – great, tall – low, greater than – less than, longer – shorter, above – below ... counting to 10, attaching a number to a picture of objects, mathematic games, riddles and quizzes.

Cognitive skills, attention – new concepts, people, animals, traditions, natural processes, reasons - consequences.

\* Basics of the above skills, knowledge and attitudes are formed in **harmonic family environment**. However, attendance of **a nursery school at least one year prior** to first grade enrolment makes the child readier to attend school. In nursery school the attitudes, knowledge and skills of the child are developed under specialized supervision of class teachers. In case the child has a health problem or is in any way disabled (hyperactive child, communication disorder, visual/hearing handicap etc.), the **parent should in their own interest and above all, in the interest of their child inform the child's future teachers**. In such specific cases the child is to be supervised by a special pedagogue. The parent should find out if the school is prepared to handle such situation and if it disposes of specially trained personnel, otherwise the school attendance may have a negative impact on the child's personality. **The parent should in no case stress their child before the enrolment to first grade, hurry the child and/or threaten them with the school**, they should not require the child to do things they are not able to do yet.

**I wish a lot of patience to the parents and good luck to the future first-graders and... start off on the right foot".**

Mgr. Eva Bednáriková  
Headmistress