

In the School Year of 2020, All Public and Non-profit Kindergarten Admission is about to Begin. Six Types of Children can be Admitted First.

(Courtesy of Yang, Qian-Ai at the Division of Junior High, Elementary School and Preschool Education)

In order to alleviate the burden of childcare, the Ministry of Education strives to promote the countermeasures against low birth rates, with focus on the expansion of public and affordable preschool education services. Public kindergartens, including general public and non-profit kindergartens, should preferentially admit children from low-income households, children from middle-low income households, children with physical and mental disabilities, indigenous children, children from families in special circumstances, and children whose parents are people with moderate or severe physical or psychological disabilities. As the admission of public kindergartens in the school year of 2020 is about to be launched, the Ministry of Education reminds parents to seize these special admission opportunities.

According to the Ministry of Education, parents of children who have the right to be admitted into kindergarten first may consult with the education bureau (department) of the special municipality, or city (county) government of the place where the household is registered, before applying for a public kindergarten, and follow the local government's regulations to verify their eligibilities. In the case of children with physical or mental disabilities, after verifying their eligibilities based on the Special Education Student Identification and Admission Guidance Association set up by various local governments, these children will be admitted to kindergarten accordingly. Furthermore, in addition to complying with the provisions of the Early Childhood Education and Care Act, each local government will, based on the local supply and schooling needs, formulate a plan for children who can be prioritized for public kindergartens. Parents of kindergarten-age children are advised to learn about these local features local government's admission regulations.

Meanwhile, to alleviate parents' financial burden in a practical manner, the Ministry of Education has launched a public kindergarten tuition waiver program for children between two and five years old; the monthly tuition fee at non-profit kindergartens will not exceed NT\$3,500; children from low-income and middle-low-income families are exempted from tuition fees; for the five-year-old children of the economically disadvantaged households whose annual income is less than NT\$700,000, additional subsidies will be provided for them.

In order to make parents feel at ease at work, the Ministry of Education has also motivated public kindergartens to actively launch after-school services. All children from low-income households, middle-low-income households, or households with special economic conditions and the need for assistance approved by the competent authorities of the special municipality or city (county) can participate in such services for free.

In order to increase the supply of affordable preschool services, the Ministry of Education has also established a quasi-public mechanism for children between two and five years of age, with a monthly payment not exceeding NT\$4,500. Quasi-public kindergartens that will start the admission work in the school year of 2020 should formulate the admission guidelines and give priority to admitting children who need assistance.

The Ministry of Education states that all school assistance, subsidies, and supporting measures are aimed at providing children with high-quality, universal, affordable and convenient preschool services for them to learn and grow up happily. To facilitate inquiries about information regarding public and quasi-public kindergarten admission, the Ministry of Education is compiling information on the priority admission and admission of public kindergartens of various local governments in the school year of 2020, as well as the admission guidelines for quasi-public kindergartens across the country, which are expected to be announced in April. One may also call the special municipality or city (county) government or

quasi-public kindergartens to inquire about the admission timetable and apply for kindergarten in local area.