

## **Kindergarten Admission in the Academic Year of 2018: Priority Admission for Six Categories of Children!**

(Article Courtesy of Hsieh, Ya-Chun at the Division of Junior High, Elementary School and Preschool Education)

The public kindergarten enrollment for the academic year of 2018 is about to kick off! According to the Early Childhood Education and Care Act and its enforcement provisions, children, who belong to one of the following six categories: "low-income family," "middle-and-low-income family," "children with disabilities," "indigenous children," "special family circumstances," and "parents with moderate to severe disabilities," are priority consideration for admission to public kindergartens under the jurisdiction of the special municipal, county, or city government. Parents should seize this opportunity of early education for their children as soon as possible!

The Ministry of Education reminds the parents, who have children eligible for priority admission, to consult with the education bureau (division) that is under the special municipal, county, or city government in the district, where the household is registered, regarding the admission information before applying for public kindergartens. They should also apply for identification work according to the local government's regulations. Apart from the provisions of the Early Childhood Education and Care Act, each local government can also consider other categories of children for priority admission, based on its local supply and school attendance needs. Therefore, the Ministry of Education has called on the families with school-age children to pay attention to the public kindergarten enrollment regulations from their jurisdiction, i.e. the special municipal, city, or government.

Meanwhile, to reduce the burden on economically disadvantaged families, the Ministry of Education has established the "Tuition Exemption Subsidy for the Five-year-

old” for the five-year-olds from low-income households, low-and-middle-income households, or households with annual income of under NT\$500,000 to attend public kindergartens for free; households with annual income of more than NT\$500,000 and less than NT\$700,000 yuan or less will receive a subsidy of up to NT\$6,000 per semester, apart from tuition exemption. In addition, children over two years old and up to five years old from low-income households will also receive a subsidy of NT\$6,000 per semester. To give parents peace of mind at work, the Ministry of Education encourages public kindergartens to develop after-school programs proactively; children from all low-income households, middle-and-low-income households, or families with special circumstances that need assistance and are approved by the competent authority at the special municipal, county, or city government may access the service for free. The Ministry of Education states that all kinds of school attendance assistance and supplementary support measures are designed to provide children with high-quality, universal, affordable, and accessible education and care services to allow children to learn and grow happily.

To facilitate parents to inquire about the information related public kindergarten enrollment, the Ministry of Education has compiled all the information on public kindergarten priority admission and enrollment for the academic year of 2018 from each special municipal, county, and city governments; parents may visit the Early Childhood Educare website (<http://www.ece.moe.edu.tw>), or call the special municipal, county, or city government to learn more about the public kindergarten enrollment schedule, choose the nearest public kindergarten, and allow their children to enjoy appropriate educare services.