

*How to Equip
Yourself and
Your Child for
Hong Kong
Kindergartens*

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**The Whole Child Education
Center**

Founder and Education &
Developmental Consultant

Topics covering today...

- Preparing yourself
 - Importance of understanding the systems
 - Local Schools Interviews
 - International Schools Interviews
- Preparing your child

How to equip yourself and your child for Hong Kong Kindergartens?

Schooling in Hong Kong



How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

贏在起跑線上



How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

是現實條線還是起跑線？



How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

Preparing yourself...

- Understand the different systems
- Know your end-goals & work your child's education plan backwards
- Understand the interview process
- Specific school requirements
- Plan and prepare ahead—especially in areas that require long-term preparation

How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

Local VS International

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Child's Time

Parental
Involvement

Curriculum
Style

Language
Environment

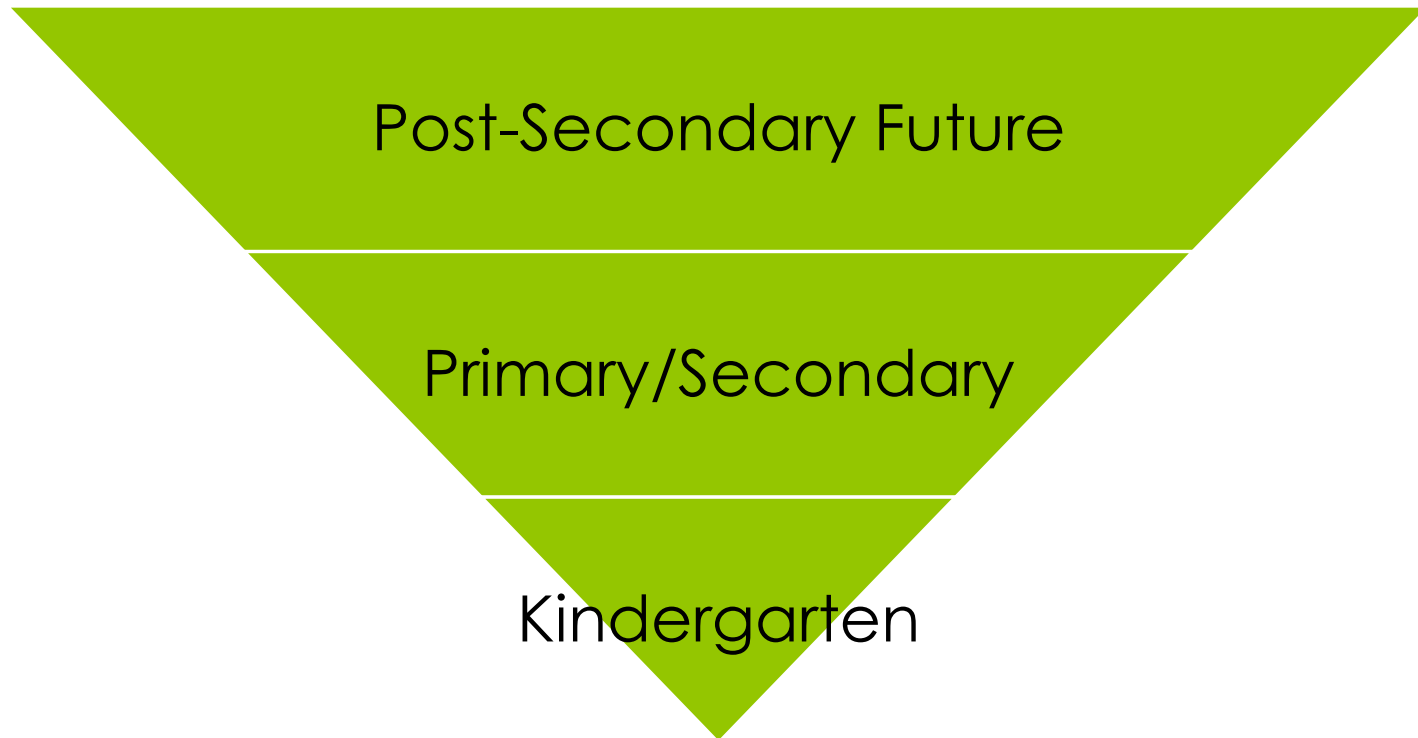
Post-
Secondary
Future

How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

Ideal vs Reality

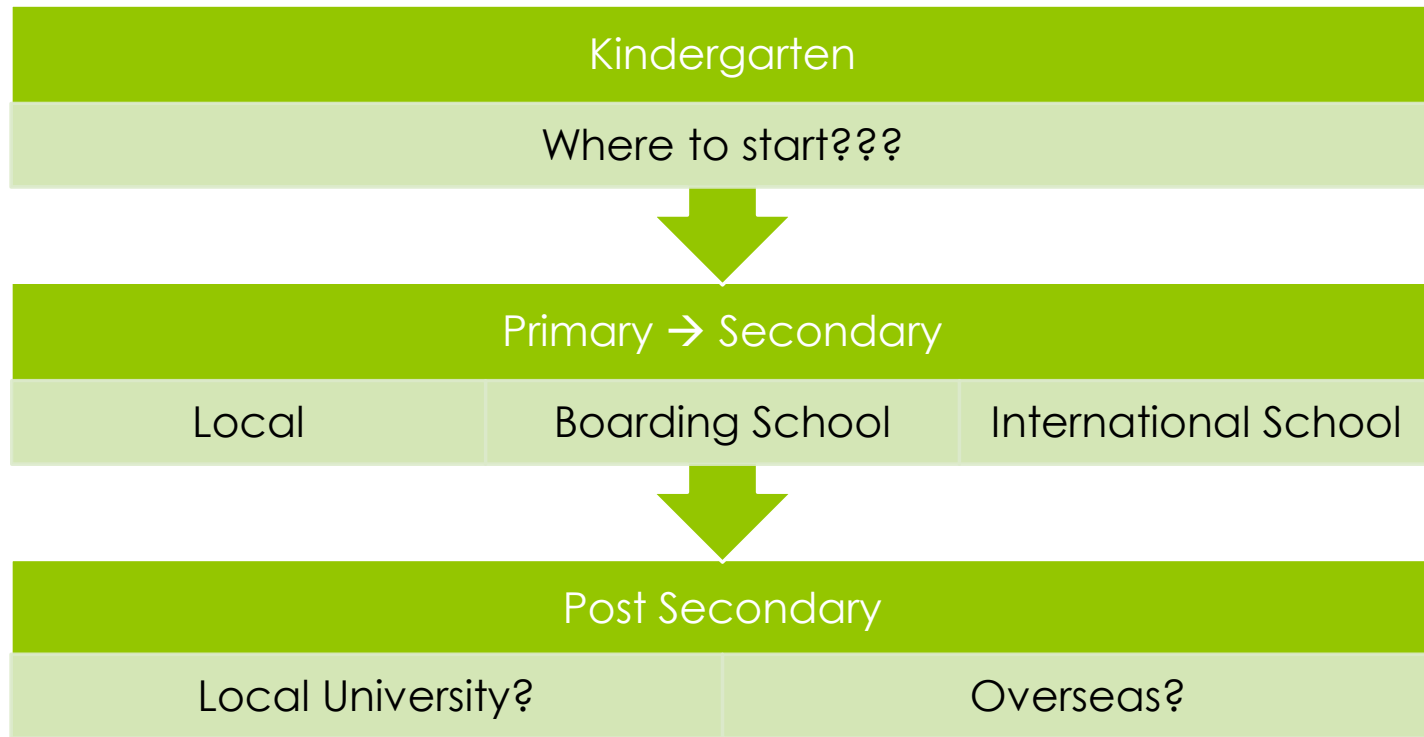
How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

Local School



How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

Local School



How to equip yourself and your child for
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Local School

- Primary 1
 - Direct Interview vs Points/Lottery System
- Kindergarten / Nursery
 - Priority to Primary 1 vs No priority
 - Name of the Kindergarten

How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

Local Kindergarten/Nursery

- To get into Kindergarten:
 - First get into Nursery?
 - Enroll into playgroup first?
- Interview Time: Autumn (Oct-Nov)
- Age cutoff
- Application form

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Local Kindergarten/Nursery Interviews

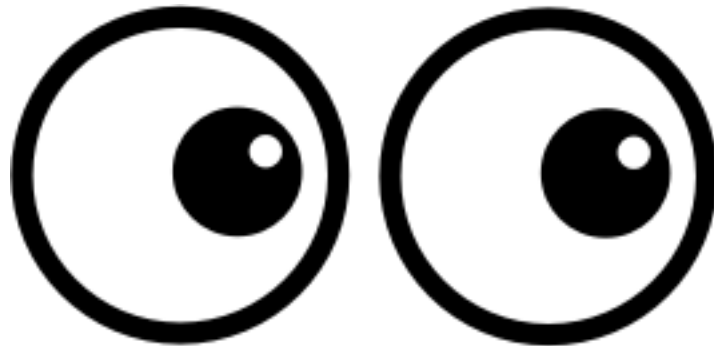
- Who is expected to attend?
- Dress Code
- Parent-Child Behaviors



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Local Kindergarten/Nursery Interviews

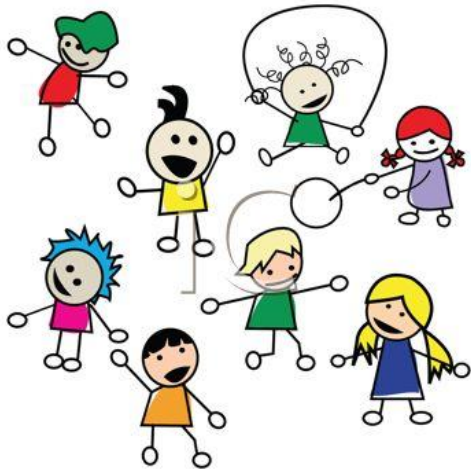
- You are being watched!



How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

Local Kindergarten/Nursery Play-Based Interviews

Free Play Time



- Warming up time
- Able to engage
- Style of play
- Interactive play
- Sharing / Snatching
- **TIDY UP!!!**

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Local Kindergarten/Nursery Play-Based Interviews

Circle Time

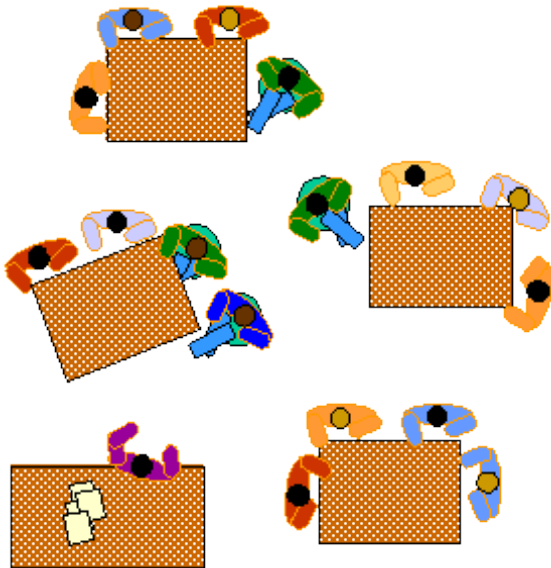


- Story / Songs
- Sitting down behavior
- Attention
- Turn taking
- Participation

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Local Kindergarten/Nursery Play-Based Interviews

Rotation / Stations / Individual Time



Puzzles

Blocks

Beading

Picture
Labels

Shapes/
Colors

Counting

Body
Parts

Personal
Questions

Playdoh

Multi-step
instructions

Functions
of things

ABC

How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

Local Kindergarten/Nursery Play-Based Interviews

- Teachers' Questions to Parents
 - Child's interests / backgrounds
 - Parenting styles
 - Scenario questions (i.e. discipline)
 - Understanding of school philosophy
 - Education plans

How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

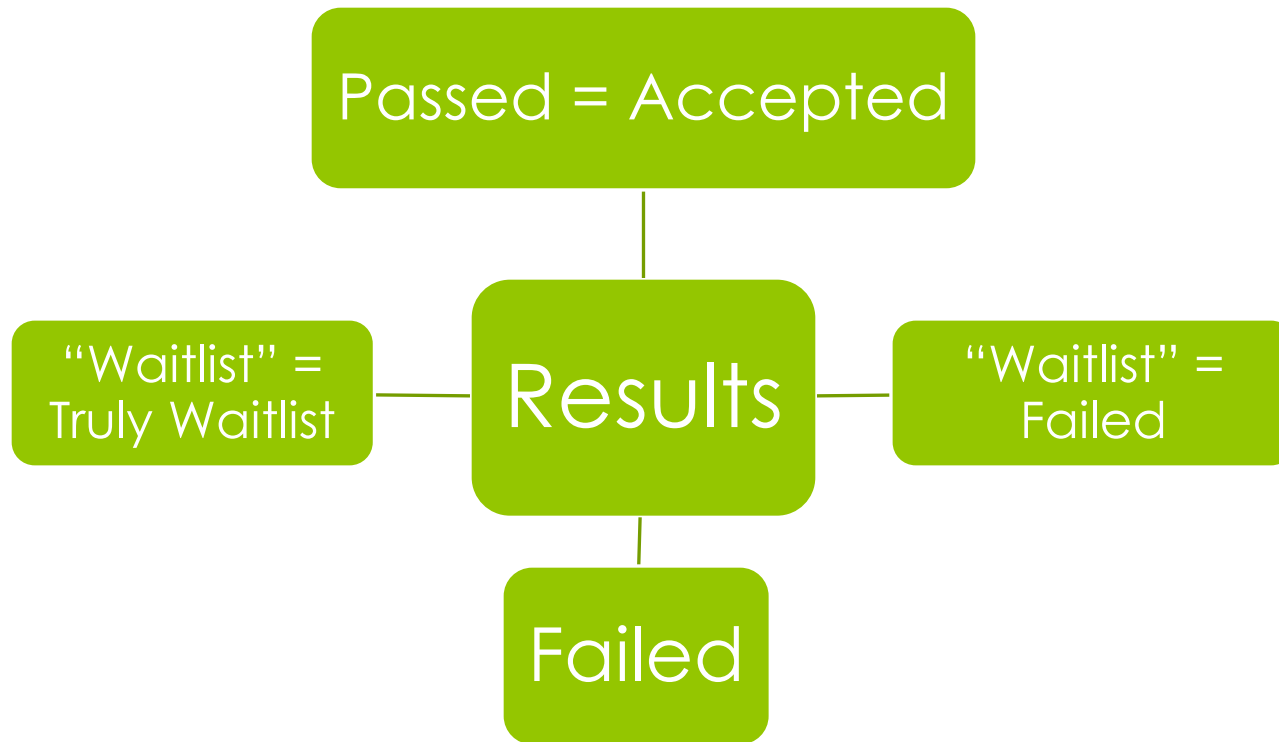
Local Kindergarten/Nursery What matters???

- Child performance matters!
- Parents' behavior matters!
- Birth-date matters!
- Previous schooling matters!

- What about...
 - *Connection matters???*

How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

Local Kindergarten/Nursery Understanding Results



How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

International School

How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

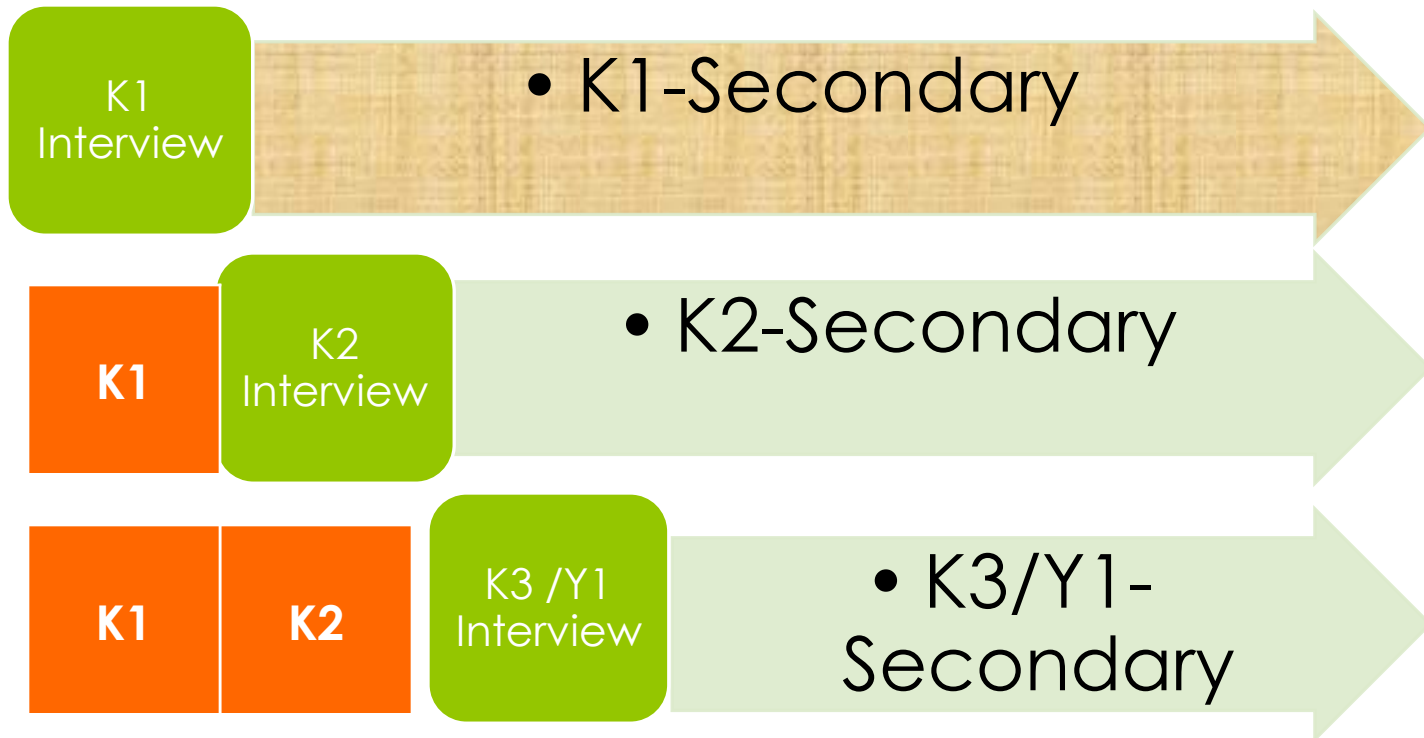
International School

- Interview Time: January-March
- Age cutoff: Jan-Dec / Sep-Aug
- Application form

- “International” Kindergartens vs true International Kindergartens
- International Schools vs Independent Schools

How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

International School “Through-train” school



How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

International School

What matters??

- Child performance matters?? YES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Parents' behavior matters?? Maybe
- Birth-date matters?? Somewhat
- Previous schooling matters?? NO
- Connection matters?? Maybe
- Siblings?? Yes
- Passport?? Yes
- Debuture?? Yes

Regardless of the above, a child MUST pass the interview!

How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

International School Play-based Interviews (K1-K3)

Interview Components

- Separation
- Free Play
- Circle Time
- Individual Time
- Others



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International School Play-based Interviews (K1-K3)

Entering the Classroom	Skills Being Evaluated
Being able to separate without crying	Independence & Self-confidence skills
	Separation
	Emotional Development & Maturity
	Parents' way of handling their crying child

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Hong Kong Kindergartens?

International School Play-based Interviews (K1-K3)

Free Play Time	Skills Being Evaluated
Teacher engages in conversation with child	Language skills -speaking in sentences -logics & coherence in speech
Teacher plays with child	Following Instructions Compliance
Observing child's play skills	Play & Social skills -interactions with peers -Behavior: snatching & sharing -conflict resolution
Tidy Up	Following Instructions

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International School Play-based Interviews (K1-K3)

Circle Time	Skills Being Evaluated
Sitting down	Attention
Listening to story	Attention -focusing -eye contact
Answering story-related questions	Receptive & Expressive Language Story skills Higher order thinking skills General Knowledge
Turn taking	Social skills
Participation	Classroom skills Responsiveness

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International School Play-based Interviews (K1-K3)

Individual Time	Skills Being Evaluated
Numeracy	Academic skills--Math
Literacy	Academic skills--Reading/Writing
Cognitive Tasks	Cognitive skills—logics/reasoning Language skills—coherency in explanations
Drawing / Cutting	Fine Motor Skills Language skills—picture explanation
Completion of requested tasks	Responsiveness Compliance / Behavior

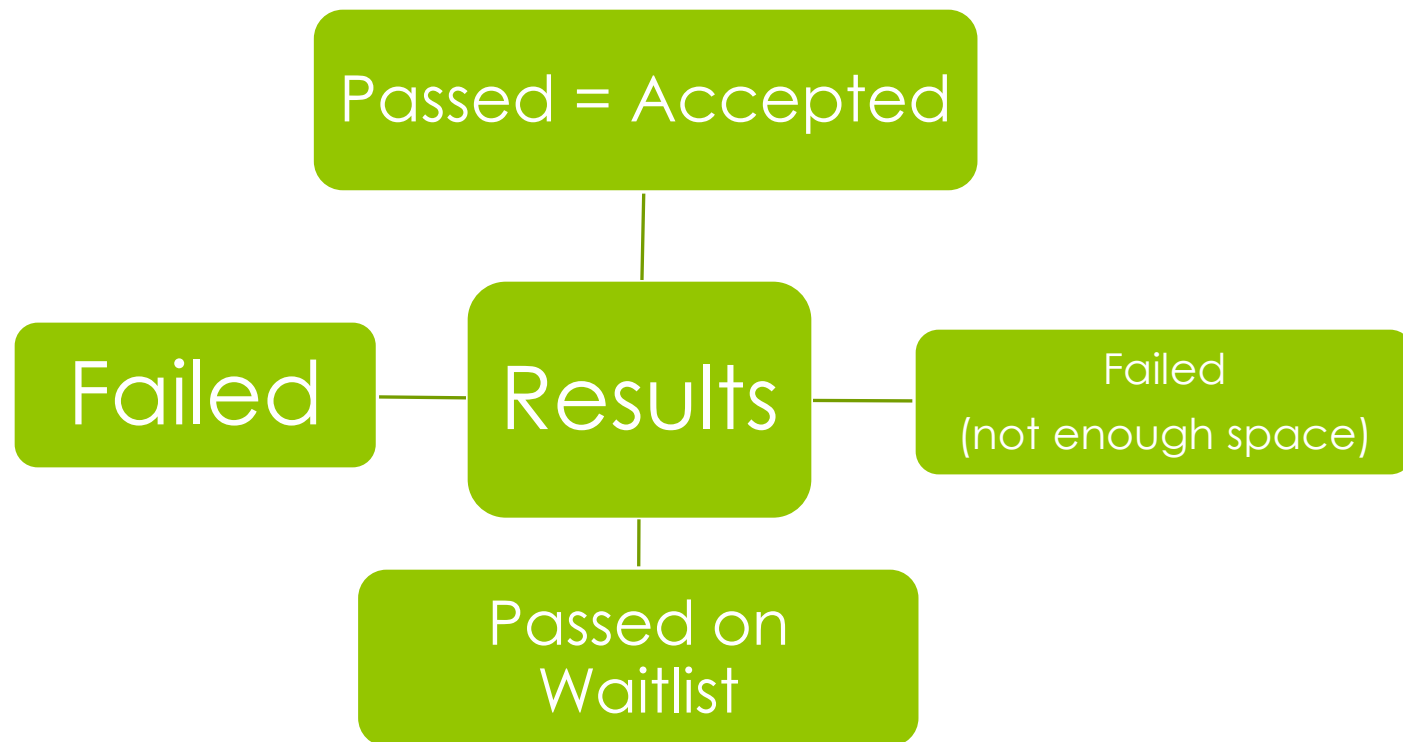
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International School Play-based Interviews (K1-K3)

Others	Skills Being Evaluated
Walking up and down stairs	Gross Motor Skills
Catch and throw ball	Gross Motor Skills
Playground multi-steps instructions	Compliance Following Instructions Behavior

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International School Understanding Results



How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

Preparing your “whole” child

Separation from caregivers	Language Development	Play & Social Skills	Gross Motor Skills
Fine Motor Skills	Cognitive Development / Thinking Skills	General Knowledge	Socio-Emotional Development
Behavioral Management	Classroom Readiness Skills	Compliance & Following Instructions	Self-Help & Independence Skills

How is it possible to prepare a 2-3 years old for all these?

How to equip yourself and your child for Hong Kong Kindergartens?

Preparing your child

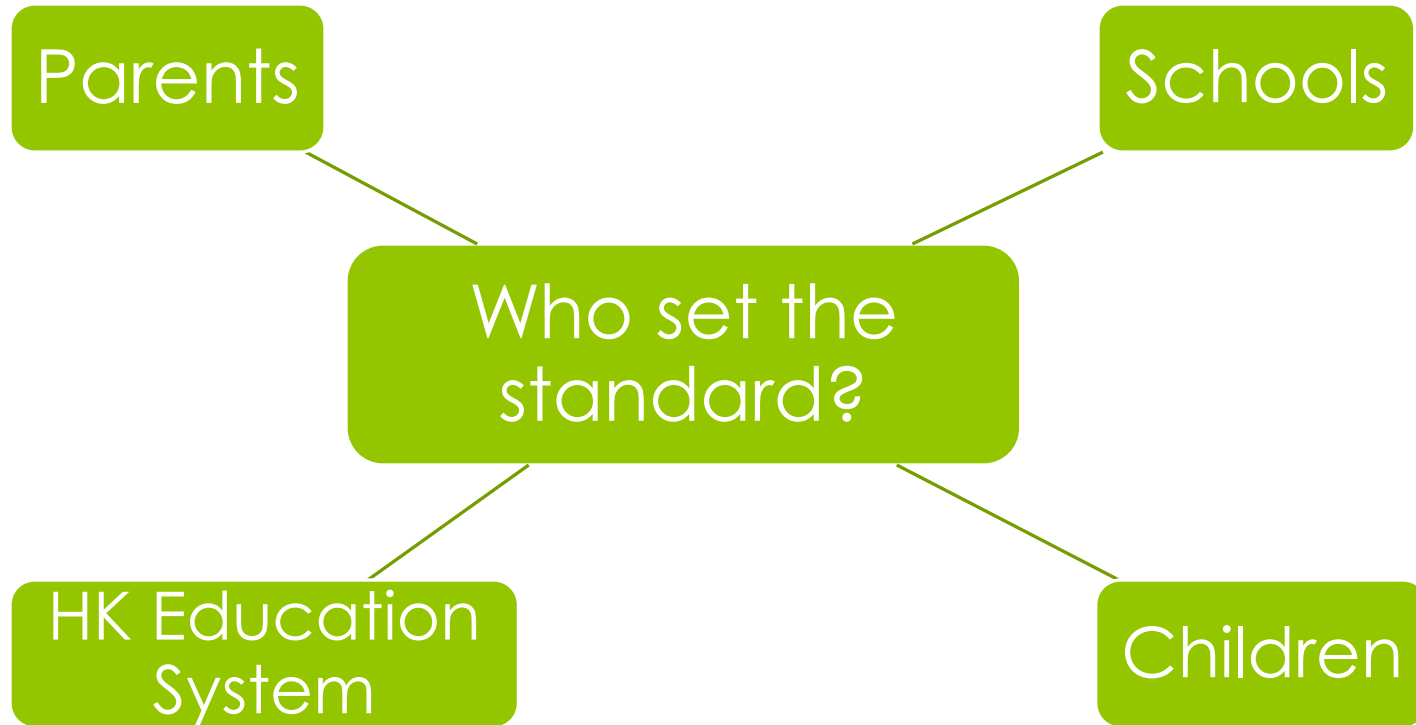
- Raise and cultivate your child in a well-rounded way
- Never prepare your child the last minute
- Spend time with your child
- Know the end-goals and plan ahead backwards
- Never forget to keep learning positive

How to equip yourself and your child for
Hong Kong Kindergartens?

Developmental Milestones VS Reality

How to equip yourself and your child for
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誰要小朋友贏在起跑線上??



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Thank You!

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