



## Types of Classes

The English Speaking Playgroup/School (ESP) offers 5 types of classes:

- Playgroup classes
- Reading and writing classes
- English as a foreign language classes
- Examination courses
- Private classes

Most types of classes are divided into various proficiency levels. Please discuss the capabilities of your children with the teaching staff, to ensure that they are registered into the correct level.

The ESP has no set curriculum for most of the classes, but nevertheless it aims to bring children to a particular level of proficiency by the end of the school-year. Statements describing these levels are given with the information about each type of class.

## Playgroup Classes

Playgroup sessions provide a happy and relaxed atmosphere for children aged 3-6 years. Various activities such as painting, handicrafts, singing and games are offered at all levels. Free time is also available to play "house" or with the train, cars, farm, etc.

The more advanced levels begin to introduce basic reading, writing and mathematics readiness skills. There is also plenty of time for creative play, stories, painting etc.

Special care is taken to offer activities that enable each child to participate at his or her own level and ability. Children are encouraged to attend classes twice a week whenever possible to promote both language and socialization skills.

These classes are primarily for children who already speak English in their home environments.

## Reading and Writing Classes

These classes focus on the four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. This offers a foundation upon which parents can build. The lessons are challenging and enjoyable with an emphasis on activities that develop both oral and written comprehension from beginner to advanced levels.

These classes are primarily for children who already speak English in their home environments.

The proficiency levels described here are intended as guidelines only. The teaching staff will be pleased to answer your questions about your children's capabilities and their progress during the school-year.

By the end of the school-year, your children should be able to...

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Level 1 | ...understand basic phonics<br>...recognise differences between the various vowel sounds<br>...write the letters of the alphabet correctly<br>...read simple three-letter words |
| Level 2 | ...understand the long vowel sounds<br>...write simple sentences with appropriate punctuation<br>...sight read commonly used words  |
| Level 3 | ...understand groups of letters representing particular sounds<br>...read simple texts and answer questions   |

- ...write on a particular topic using a number of sentences
  - ...understand the meaning of nouns, adjectives and verbs
- Level 4
- ...complete logic problems
  - ...follow complex written instructions
  - ...memorise simple poems
  - ...use irregular verbs.
- Level 5
- ...read fluently
  - ...express opinions about characters
  - ...write stories using appropriate punctuation and grammar
  - ...write summaries of books
- Level 6
- ...research and correlate information
  - ...understand complex grammar
  - ...make verbal presentations
- Level 7+
- ...present written arguments on a particular subject
  - ...use English with confidence
  - ...be of a high enough standard to be able to attend Cambridge ESOL courses

## English as a Foreign Language Classes

English as a foreign language (EFL) classes provide a fun way of learning English for 3-12 year olds using singing, games, stories and handicrafts to provide a motivating and enjoyable start to learning another language.

These classes are primarily for children who do not speak English in their home environments.

By the end of the school-year, your children should be able to...

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Playgroup Level 1         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...pay attention for short periods</li> <li>...be aware that a different language code exists</li> <li>...listen to short stories</li> <li>...follow easy directions</li> <li>...listen and follow a number of songs</li> </ul>                 |
| Playgroup Level 2         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...pay attention for longer periods</li> <li>...listen to stories</li> <li>...respond to simple questions</li> <li>...sing a number of songs</li> </ul>   |
| Playgroup Level 3         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...concentrate for longer periods</li> <li>...follow directions</li> <li>...complete simple tasks</li> <li>...ask and answer simple questions</li> <li>...use English in songs, role-plays and games</li> </ul>                                 |
| Reading & Writing Level 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...recognise and write a few words</li> <li>...follow a series of instructions</li> <li>...start to communicate in English</li> </ul>   |
| Reading & Writing Level 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...read and understand easy stories</li> <li>...write simple sentences</li> <li>...use English in real life situations</li> <li>...appreciate cultural diversity</li> </ul>   |
| Reading & Writing Level 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...read and understand more complex stories</li> <li>...start to recognise and use simple grammar structures</li> <li>...listen and react to tasks given verbally</li> <li>...use spoken and written English in small class projects</li> </ul> |
| Reading & Writing Level 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...read and understand increasingly complex stories</li> <li>...start to recognise more complex grammar structures</li> <li>...be able to speak English with confidence</li> </ul>  |

## Examination Courses

These courses prepare pupils for the KET, PET, FCE and CAE examinations set by the University of Cambridge ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), which are internationally recognised qualifications. They are useful for those seeking additional help with, or exemption from, English lessons at local Swiss secondary schools. All children are eligible to take these examinations regardless of the language spoken by their parents or in their home environment.

KET: Key English Test

PET: Preliminary English Test

FCE: First Certificate in English

CAE: Certificate in Advanced English

Examinations are taken at an approved testing centre usually in Bern and the **ESP** will enter the candidates for the examinations as a group **ESP** entry. Examination fees are not included in the **ESP**'s term fees and will be charged in addition. Examinations are usually taken in June, however, we also recommend that the students on our PET course take the KET examination in November.

These supplementary courses concentrate on examination techniques and are offered **only** to those pupils also attending a non-examination class at the **ESP**. For the KET course, this must be either a Level 4 Reading & Writing EFL or Level 6 Reading & Writing course, for the PET and FCE courses, this must be a Level 7 or above Reading & Writing course and for the CAE course, this must be a Level 9+ Reading & Writing course..

**ESP** teaching staff will decide whether or not a child has reached a satisfactory standard to be able to benefit from these additional courses.

## Private Classes

These classes are individually tailored to each student's specific needs, based on their level of English as well as on whichever skill(s) the student may wish to focus on. This, for example, can include working on pronunciation, building vocabulary as well as grammar and examination preparation.

Each class normally lasts for 45 or 60 minutes but other class durations can be accommodated by arrangement. Private classes are normally held on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons/evenings.