



Types of Classes

The English Speaking Playgroup/School (**ESP**) offers Parents & Tots and 5 types of classes at different levels:

- Playgroup classes
- Reading and Writing classes
- English as a Foreign Language classes
- Examination courses
- Private classes (Onsite and Distance Learning)

Potential students are invited to visit the school, and where appropriate to be assessed to ensure they are registered for a suitable class.

The **ESP** does not work with set curricula for non-examination classes. This allows us to meet the needs of each individual learner whilst enabling them to reach 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 are in English and are suitable for children aged 3-6 years regardless of what language they speak at home. Children will learn and develop further their English language in a happy and relaxed atmosphere. Various activities such as painting, crafts (cutting, colouring, glueing, assembling etc) and singing are offered at all levels.

During classes there is also time available for free and imaginative play with our many toys to further the development of social skills. The children also learn theme-based and activity songs throughout the year. All playgroups work with letters and numbers at the appropriate playgroup level, introducing basic readiness skills for kindergarten and school.

Special care is taken to offer activities that enable each child to participate at their own level and ability. Children are encouraged to attend classes twice a week whenever possible to promote language, socialisation and fine-motor skills.

By the end of the school year, your child should be able to:

- Level 1
 - pay attention for an extended period
 - listen to and respond to simple stories
 - listen to, follow and sing a number of songs
 - follow easy instructions
 - have developed their fine-motor skills e.g. cutting, using a pencil correctly
 - follow easy guidance to complete crafts with minimal assistance
 - have basic awareness of letters, sounds and numbers

- Level 2
 - concentrate for longer periods
 - listen to and respond to stories
 - sing a number of songs
 - respond appropriately to simple questions
 - develop fine motor skills further
 - follow instructions to complete crafts independently
 - recognise the letter sounds and write the upper case letters
 - write numbers 1-10 and have basic numeracy skills

- Level 3
 - concentrate and focus on tasks for longer periods
 - listen to and respond to longer stories
 - sing a number of songs
 - use English to communicate in the class
 - recognise the sounds, know and write all the letters of the alphabet (upper and lower case)
 - show confidence with numbers 1-10
 - have all the necessary skills to start reading and writing

Reading and Writing Classes

Our Reading & Writing classes focus on the four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. There is an emphasis on activities that develop both oral and written comprehension from beginner to advanced levels.

These classes are for children who either already speak English in their home environment or have a very good level of English fluency. Children are individually assessed to ensure that they are placed in the most appropriate class for their age and ability.

From Level 6 upwards, students may be invited to do a Cambridge English qualification, if appropriate.

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

By the end of the school year, your child should be able to:

- Level 1
- understand basic phonics
 - recognise the differences between the short vowel sounds
 - sight read some commonly used words
 - write some consonant vowel consonant (cvc) words
 - read Level 2 (or higher) graded readers and answer questions on the text (spoken)
 - complete exercises from the CGP Reception English Phonics Practice Books
- Level 2
- understand groups of letters representing particular sounds
 - understand and use some consonant blends
 - sight read and begin to spell more commonly used words
 - write simple sentences with appropriate punctuation
 - read Level 6 (or higher) graded readers and answer questions on the text (spoken)
 - complete exercises from the CGP Year 1 English Phonics Practice Books
- Level 3
- understand and use the different spellings for the long vowel sounds
 - spell correctly the commonly used words from Levels 1 and 2
 - identify and understand the meanings of basic parts of speech (e.g. nouns, adjectives and verbs)
 - write on a particular topic, using a number of simple sentences and basic punctuation
 - read simple texts and answer questions
 - read and understand short chapter books independently
 - complete exercises from the CGP KS1 Year 2 English Workbook
- Level 4
- identify and understand the meanings of more parts of speech (e.g. types of nouns, pronouns and adverbs)
 - write short texts, using a variety of simple sentences
 - read complex texts and answer simple questions
 - read and discuss different aspects of the class book
 - read and understand longer chapter books independently
 - use the CGP English Practice Book to work on simple grammar structures, punctuation and spelling
- Level 5
- use the parts of speech introduced in Levels 3 and 4 correctly
 - write a range of different texts using simple and some complex sentences
 - read more complex texts and give more detailed answers to comprehension questions
 - express a simple opinion (written and spoken) about the class novel
 - read and understand most age-appropriate books independently
 - use the CGP English Practice Book to develop work on simple grammar structures, punctuation and spelling
 - have the possibility to start an additional Cambridge English: A2 KEY exam course

By the end of the school year, the student will have:

- Level 6
- looked at different aspects of a novel such as character development and related themes
 - expressed a simple opinion (written and spoken) about the novel
 - used the CGP English Practice Book to work on complex grammar structures, punctuation and spelling
 - the possibility to start an additional Cambridge English: A2 KEY or B1 PRELIMINARY exam course
- Level 7
- looked at different aspects of a novel such as character development, related themes and plot
 - expressed a more developed opinion (written and spoken) about the novel
 - used the CGP English Practice Book to work on simple and complex grammar structures, punctuation and spelling
 - the possibility to start an additional Cambridge English: B1 PRELIMINARY or B2 FIRST Certificate exam course
- Level 8
- looked at different aspects of the novel such as character development, plot, social and historical themes
 - shown a deeper understanding (written and spoken) about the novel
 - used the CGP Key Stage Three Workbook to work on more complex grammar structures, punctuation and spelling to extend knowledge and use of language
 - the possibility to start or continue an additional Cambridge English: B2 FIRST Certificate exam course
- Level 9
- looked at different aspects of the novel such as character development, plot, social and historical themes
 - used the CGP Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar for GCSE Workbook to consolidate more complex grammar structures, punctuation and spelling
 - shown a deep understanding of and reflected on the novel in order to give a considered personal response
 - the possibility to start or continue an additional Cambridge English: B2 FIRST Certificate exam course or C1 ADVANCED Certificate exam course

Saturday Classes

These three classes - S1, S2 and S3 - are for students who are doing the Cambridge English B2 FIRST Certificate (Year 1 or Year 2) or C1 ADVANCED Certificate (Year 1 or Year 2) exam courses, or for those students who cannot attend weekly classes due to other commitments. These classes are held once a month.

By the end of the school year, the student will have:

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| S1, S2 & S3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• looked at different aspects of the novel such as character development, plot, social and historical themes• shown a deep understanding of and reflected on the novel in order to give a considered personal response, both spoken and written, in line with the requirements of an exam course• revisited grammar, when necessary, to support exam courses |
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English as a Foreign Language Classes (EFL)

Our English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classes focus on the four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. There is an emphasis on activities that develop both oral and written comprehension from beginner to advanced levels.

These classes are for children who have limited opportunities to practise and develop their English skills. Children are individually assessed to ensure that they are placed in the most appropriate class for their age and ability.

For our older beginners (EFL1o) and from EFL3, children have the possibility to take a Cambridge English: Young Learners test (Starters, Movers, Flyers). Test fees are not included in the **ESP's** term fees and will be charged as an addition. The tests are taken in June.

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

By the end of the school year, your child should be able to:

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| EFL Level 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• start to use basic English chunks in real life situations• follow a series of instructions• recognise and write simple phrases |
| EFL 1o
Older beginners (8+ years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• start to use basic English chunks in real life situations• start to recognise and use simple grammar structures• take the Cambridge English: Pre A1 Starters exam• move on to EFL Level 3 or 4 |
| EFL 2o
Older intermediate beginners
(9+ years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• speak confidently on familiar topics• read and understand more complex texts• use simple grammar structures correctly• listen and respond to written and verbal tasks• take the Cambridge English: Pre A1 Starters exam or possibly the A1 Movers exam• move on to EFL Level 4 or 5 |

- EFL 2
- ask and answer basic questions
 - talk about themselves (interests, likes and dislikes)
 - read and understand easy texts
 - write simple sentences
- EFL 3
- speak more confidently on familiar topics
 - read and understand more complex texts
 - use simple grammar structures correctly
 - listen and respond to written and verbal tasks
 - use spoken and written English in small class projects
 - take the Cambridge English: Pre A1 Starters exam
- EFL 4
- speak English with increasing confidence
 - read and understand increasingly complex texts
 - listen and respond to more complex dialogues
 - start to recognise more complex grammar structures
 - use all four skills (listening, reading, writing & speaking) in group work
 - take the Cambridge English: A1 Movers exam
- EFL 5
- speak English with increasing confidence in familiar situations
 - complete more complex listening tasks
 - read and understand a variety of texts
 - start to use more complex grammar structures in writing
 - use all four skills (listening, reading, writing & speaking) independently in group work
 - take the Cambridge English: A2 Flyers exam
- EFL 6
- speak English confidently in a variety of familiar situations
 - listen and respond to a variety of listening texts
 - read and respond to more complex texts
 - start to use more complex grammar structures with confidence in writing
 - take the Cambridge English A2 KEY exam
 - possibly start an additional Cambridge English: B1 PRELIMINARY exam course.
- EFL 7
- speak English confidently in familiar and some unfamiliar situations
 - listen and respond to more complex listening texts
 - read and respond to more complex texts
 - use complex grammar structures with confidence in writing
 - possibly start an additional Cambridge English: B1 PRELIMINARY or B2 FIRST Certificate exam course

- speak English confidently in familiar and unfamiliar situations
- listen and respond to complex listening texts
- use complex grammar structures with confidence and accuracy in writing
- possibly start or continue an additional Cambridge English: B2 FIRST Certificate exam course

Examination Courses

These examination courses prepare pupils for the Cambridge English Qualifications **A2 KEY**, **B1 PRELIMINARY**, **B2 FIRST**, **C1 ADVANCED** and **C2 PROFICIENCY**.

These are internationally recognised qualifications and are accepted by most institutions and work situations where proof of English skills is required. They are also 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.

These supplementary courses concentrate on examination techniques and are offered only to those students attending **Reading & Writing** or **EFL** classes - **Level 6 or above**. The **ESP** teaching staff will decide whether or not a student has reached a satisfactory standard to be able to benefit from these additional courses.

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 as an addition. Examinations are usually taken in June.

For the **A2 KEY** course, this must be at least a weekly **Level 6 Reading & Writing** course.

For the **B1 PRELIMINARY** course, this must be at least a weekly **Level 7 EFL or Reading & Writing** course.

For the **B2 FIRST** course, this must be at least a weekly **Level 8 EFL or Reading & Writing** course.

For the **C1 ADVANCED** course, this must be a S2 or S3 Reading & Writing course.

The **A2 KEY** course take place every 2 weeks until the February Winter Break after which it may become a weekly course. The course usually lasts for 1 year.

The **B1 PRELIMINARY** course takes place every 2 weeks until the February Winter Break after which it becomes a weekly course. The course usually lasts for 1 year.

The **B2 FIRST** course and the **C1 ADVANCED** course take place every two weeks and last from 2-3 years, depending on the progress made by each student.

The **C2 PROFICIENCY** course is open to students who have achieved a grade B or above at **C1 ADVANCED**. It is a weekly course which lasts 2-3 years, depending on the progress made by each student. There is no requirement to attend a Saturday class for Proficiency students.

Private Classes – at ESP or Online

Our private and distance learning classes are designed to meet 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 can include, but is not limited to, working on pronunciation, building vocabulary, grammar and examination preparation.

Our online private classes allow students to study remotely whilst still having one-to-one live interaction with a teacher.

Private classes are available for both adults and children. The classes for children normally last 45 or 60 minutes; classes for adults normally last 60, 90 or 120 minutes but other class durations are possible for both children and adults.