

## **Nursery / Kindergarten Education**

Children aged between 0 and 6 can attend and there are two cycles, each of them lasting 3 years.

If you want to know your child's year group, you should always take into consideration your child's birthday in the year in which the academic year starts. For example, those children who turn 3 in the year 2006 will be in the 3-year olds group for the 2006/07 academic year.

The first cycle, for children between 0 and 3 years old, is carried out in the Nursery Schools or in Private Centres of Nursery Education.

The second cycle, for children between 3 and 6 years old, is also carried out in the Nursery schools. It is free of charge for the Public Centres and for the Private Centres sustained by public funds. The teaching staff who work there are specialised in primary education. The classrooms are adjusted for the children's necessities and they are separate from the other school buildings. There is help and early assistance for educational needs.

Although this is a voluntary stage, the education administration must guarantee a sufficient number of places to insure the schooling of anybody who asks for a place in this cycle.

During, the first days of the school year attendance by the 3-year olds is done gradually – in a period of “adaptation”; this process involves the family, teaching staff and the Education Community working together to facilitate the natural integration process of your children.

## **Primary Education**

This period lasts from 6 to 12 years old and consists of 3 cycles, each of them lasting 2 years, meaning there are 6 years of schooling in Primary Education.

It is compulsory and free of charge in Public Schools and in those Private Schools sustained by public funds, and takes place in Primary Schools.

The Primary School helps to provide an education where the pupils acquire the basic elements of our culture. It should adapt to the different rhythm of each pupil. General subject teachers work there, as well as teachers trained in foreign languages, music and physical education. There are also teachers for children with learning difficulties, as well as speech therapist specialists.

## **The Educational Centre**

### *Inspection and Management units*

They are in charge of all the activities carried out in the centre which should be in accordance with the Constitution as well as in consideration of the laws and of the quality of education.

They also ensure the possibility of exercising rights and carrying out duties, through participation in the management and assessment of the school.

- *Managing Team:* Headmaster/mistress, Head of Studies and Administration.
- *School Council:* Consists of the representatives of all the sections of the Educational Centre and participates in the management and assessment of the School.
- *Pedagogical Council:* This is formed by all the teaching staff in the Centre. The Pedagogical Council plans, coordinates and takes decisions regarding the pedagogical problems of the Centre.

### *Teaching coordination:*

This is in place to ensure communication between all members of the teaching staff.

- **Tutoring:** A tutor is assigned to all the groups (classes) of pupils.

- Cycle Team (Nursery and Elementary Education): Consists of the teachers of the same cycle and is in charge of organising and carrying out the teaching process of the cycle.
- Pedagogical Coordination Commission: All the coordinators of the Cycle Team, the Head of Studies, as well as the head of the educational Department form this Commission. The Commission is presided over by the Head.

### **Additional Services:**

The law provides that the children should be schooled in the town (municipality) where they live, or, if they live in a village and there is no school, the children should attend the school nearest to the village. In this case the Administration of the School will offer free transport service and board. If it is necessary, a boarding school can be offered.

### **Textbooks on loan:**

The government of Aragon has made sure that the elementary and compulsory education be free. In addition, the schools receive resources to provide the pupils with text books on loan.

### **The opening of the Educational Centre to the Society:**

Starting in 2002, the Government of Aragon has regulated the opening of the School Centres in order that they be available to society in general. The Nursery, Elementary and Compulsory Education schools extend their working hours in order to carry out additional extracurricular school activities and to offer other educational activities to the pupils.

### **Encouraging reading:**

The use of books at an early age develops an interest in reading, and this habit should be fostered both at school and outside. At home, parents should lead their children to the discovery of the wonderful world of books.

### **Intercultural Education:**

We live in a plural, globalised world where being together with people of different backgrounds, speaking different languages in kindergarten, school, the park or any other type of social activity for your children can only favour social integration. It is important to avoid being afraid of the unknown and to make these encounters come about.

### **Information and Communication Technologies:**

Dealing with new technologies favours the development of communication habits, wakes up both curiosity and the desire to find out things. Doing this with your child will help him/her to acquire the skills necessary to be critical when faced with audiovisual language (computer games, television, films, etc.).

### **Foreign languages:**

The younger a child is, the easier it is for him/her to pick up and dominate verbal and non-verbal languages. This is the age at which to start a child learning a foreign language, something that could, in the future, help him/her to understand other cultures and realities.

### **Ways of collaborating with your children:**

- Make them feel positive about schooling;
- Boosting everyday home activities in order to make them habits;
- Appreciating the works they bring to home, and listening to them when they talk to you about school;

- Do not be overly protective with your children, nor be too demanding on them so that they can develop their autonomy.

### **Ways of collaborating with the Educational Centre:**

- Attending the general School meeting held at the beginning of the school year;
- Attending the personal interviews with the tutor and supplying him/her with the data he/she needs;
- Attending the meetings where the school development is explained;
- Participating in school activities through other bodies: Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and School Council;
- Participating in those activities for which your attendance is required.

*This path which the families, pupils and teachers have started down together is a very important moment in the life of your children. The Educational Administration wants you to appreciate the importance of collaborating with the School Centre you belong to. The intention is that your participation can be decisive in the improvement of the quality of the school.*