

Leipzig International Kindergarten

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International
Kindergarten

LEIPZIG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Group Mixing Model
August 2019 - July 2022

(Review in Early 2022)

LIK Conceptual and Curricular Overviews

Nursery

EY1
Educator - Educator

EY2
Specialist - Educator

EY3
Teacher - Educator

Bilingual Learning Environment

English Language Learning Environment

Early Years Foundation Stage & Sächsisches Bildungsplan

IPC & Cambridge Curriculum

Child-Led Open Curriculum

Greater Teacher-Led Academic Curriculum

Flexible Daily Planning


More Structured Timetable

Play-Based / Lerner-Focused / Theme-Based

Primary


Early Childhood Relationship Tasks

Nursery



Focused on the adult-child relationships

Forming a secure base from which to explore




Interested in other's play, starting to join

Seeks out others to share experiences

Shows affection for peers

Ready to form friendships

Early Years 1-2



May form a special friendship with another child

Can play in a group, offering others to join

Forming good relationships with peers


Expanding on collaborative play forms

Forming good relationships with more peers

Getting to know others, beyond special friends

Gains confidence in linking with others

Early Years 3



Increasing social flexibility

Able to reach out successfully to others

Preparing for future transitions

*At least one Educator moves N1 → N2

*New set of Educators & rooms each year

*New set of Educators & rooms

New Model: When We Mix Groups in

Aug 2020
and 2021

Nursery 1

Nursery 2



Mix From
Nursery 2 &
EY1T
into
EY1

Early Years 1

Early Years 2



Mix From
Early
Years 2
into
EY3

Early Years 3

Why we mix groups...

After Nursery 2 & EY1T

- Four groups (12-18 children each) consolidate into three groups (20 children each)

- Balanced groups can be formed, where children are re-grouped based on changing social and learning factors such as...

After Early Years 2 and Early Years 3

- Children begin to prepare for pre-school and school, to focus on the learning and collaborate with all classmates

What we consider when mixing groups

Positive Friendships / Language Abilities / Age / Gender / Personalities / Learning & Developmental Needs / Play & Learning Partners

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When will parents find out about new group assignments for the children?

A. Traditionally, parents are informed in August, approximately one week before re-opening. The information is posted on the Parent Portal.

Q. Why are children's group assignments not made available sooner?

A. Changes in the groups, as some children either move away or join last-minute can occur throughout the summer and can impact the group assignments. The children themselves continue to develop rapidly in June and July. The more time we at LIK have to respond to these developments, the better we can create correspondingly appropriate groupings of children.

Q. Why does group mixing take so long?

A. Many factors are taken into account when the groups are being mixed. Educators take their time to ensure that children are all given the best start situation in their new groups the following year.

Q. Can parents make requests for their child's group assignment next year?

A. Please refrain from making requests of Educators to put your child with or away from certain other children. Educators have spent a year or more with your children. They know your child's learning and development needs, see the strengths and know the social constellations of the children. Thank you for not making requests to the Educators, as individual requests will not be taken into account.

Q. How can I best prepare my child for a change?

A. Stay positive about the upcoming change. Transitions are times of uncertainty and your child is looking to the adults to help them navigate this. Let them know that this change is part of stepping up, going upstairs, and becoming the „big kids“. Speak with your Educators about tips on how to best help your individual child get ready for the next year.

Q. When do the Educators at LIK find out where they will work next year?

- A. Educators are given assignments as soon as possible, but not before the assignments are quite certain. They also are informed of who their children will be next school year, as soon as group lists are finalized. We are happy to share next year's group level Educators (N1, N2, EY1, EY2, EY3) with parents each year at the end of June. We ask parents to understand that there is always room for change up until the re-opening of Kindergarten in August.

Q. Why does it take so long to assign educators to groups?

- A. Many factors go into assignments for staff members. First and foremost, staff members make their assignment requests based on their own professional development needs. Logistics are also important. Part-time and full-time colleagues as well as English and German speaking colleagues need to be mixed well. As with the children, individual working and learning styles of the colleagues must also be taken into account. Recruitment processes both internal and external need to be finished before final assignments can be made. These can carry on through the summer.

Q. Why did the LIK group-mixing model changed in August 2019?

- A. The new model (started August 2019) takes into account the thoughts of the educator team, and represents a compromise between educators in lower levels who see developmental pit-falls with group-mixing, and educators in higher levels who see developmental benefits. It realizes that children in EY1 especially need more time to settle in and to form strong friendships after their Nursery time is over. The model assumes that the first strong friendships create a safe harbour for the children in EY1 and EY2, from which they can build confidence in forming friendships and continue to explore new methods of collaborative play and learning. The model also recognizes that after two years together, the children will be ready to be mixed again. Then groups can be re-adjusted in anticipation of a heightened focus on academic learning as they move into EY3.