

EARLY YEARS ISU

Welcome to Early Years 1 (EY1)

What is EY1?

EY1 is the entry level of learning at ISU. *We are the bridge from home to the world of formal education.*

The classroom environment is nurturing and visually appealing to the sensory world of young children. An emphasis on wood and tactile soft furnishing have been selected to create a soothing environment where deep uninterrupted play can occur. English is the language

of instruction and Early Years is the Kindergarten component of the International Baccalaureate Program. The mode of learning is inquiry based. The EP1 class provides a wonderful introduction to learning and socialisation through play. Dedicated classroom teacher and assistants ensure the environment is warm, friendly and vibrant. An emphasis is placed upon social and emotional learning to develop self regulation, independence and resilience.



EY1 are invested in developing skills and competencies in the following areas:

English Speaking and Listening, Mark Making, Pre Math, Fine Motor Skills, Art Play, Sensory Learning, Small World and Dramatic Play

Additionally, EY1 have specialist classes in Music and Physical Education.

Times

Start time is from 08:00 and children should arrive by 08:45. The day finishes at 15:00 Monday to Thursday and at 13:45 on Friday. After School Care is available until 17:00 for working families when transition is completed.



In The Garden

EY have a play garden adjoining the classroom to allow a seamless flow between the inside and outside learning spaces.

Places to Play and Have Fun

UN conventions on the Rights of the Child: the right of the child to rest and leisure, engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

Space to Gather and Make Friends

The EY garden is considerate to providing play spaces that encourage social meet ups, whether it be in a large group or quieter, beautiful nature areas for friendship building on a shared project or interest.

A Chance to Encounter Nature

Interactions with nature help children appreciate our beautiful world and assist in developing care and responsibilities towards continued health for our planet.

Develop a Sense of Ones Own Abilities

Self-directed play experiences provide opportunities for children to solve problems, negotiate, test theories and achieve goals.

Admission

Children applying to EY1 must be 3 years old to be enrolled. To be eligible for EY1 children must be able to communicate in their home language, follow simple instructions, feed and dress themselves and be toilet trained. It is possible to arrange a short visit of up to one hour to experience the EYP1 class learning environment. This can be arranged with the Admissions Department.

Transition Program

During the first weeks of EY1, the kindergarten day is presented in bite-sized pieces, giving children the chance to make sense of its parts and master the sequence. Teachers observe how children are adjusting to their new environment and communicate frequently with parents. When they are ready, children move to a full day.



The EY1 Class

EY1 is comprised of 2 groups. Kangaroos and Joeys.

Kangaroos begin their learning year in August and complete a full academic calendar year of EYP1 before bouncing along to the next group.

Joeys are children who begin after September 30. They remain in EY1 as a Kangaroo for a full academic calendar year before bouncing along to the next group.

This is to ensure children enter Grade 1 at the German government mandated age.



ISU PLAYGROUP

Wednesday and Friday EY1 Classroom



Enrolled children awaiting their 3rd Birthday are invited to attend bi weekly Playgroup sessions in the EY1 learning environment.

Play group greatly supports home to ISU transition as children have time to observe and play in their future environment. They can practice some of the routines and meet who will be in their class.

Parents are required to stay with their child in the classroom during playgroup. The morning session will be every Wednesday and Friday between 08:30 and 10:00.

The session will include, sport, access to the garden and snack with the group. Please have your child prepared for inside and outside play in appropriate clothing and footwear and provide a small snack.

Children entering into a new environment require support and time to familiarise themselves, to develop skills and adequately prepare themselves for what is ahead. A group and a schedule is new to them, patience and encouragement is required to build up the child's inherent capabilities for peer group play in an active learning environment outside of the family home.

