

KINDERGARTEN OR SCHOOL, WHAT TO CHOOSE?

A DIFFICULT CHOICE

Every year, parents of six-year-olds face a difficult choice –reception class at kindergarten or primary school?

School reception class = easier recruitment process for the first grade – especially when it comes to continuing the child's education in a private school.

It's important to remember that many factors influence this decision, so it shouldn't be made impulsively or simply by following what other parents are doing.



LENGTH OF TIME AT THE FACILITY

When choosing a kindergarten, the child can benefit from care, education and teaching conditions during its opening hours. This means that the current daily rhythm is not disrupted for both the child and the parent.

Meanwhile, after finishing reception class at school, the child moves to the after-school club, where there is no guaranteed age group separation. The most stressful situation for a child is being in a very large group, often with older children from higher year groups.

LOCATION

- * Kindergarten - adapted to the needs of younger children.
- * The school remains a school - a building dedicated to older children. Its layout, corridors, changing rooms, toilets and the entire sports infrastructure common to the entire school determine the need for contact with a larger number of children.
- * The intimate atmosphere of kindergarten facilities, along with playgrounds and toilets exclusively for the group's use.
- * Meals in kindergarten are served in the children's own classroom, whereas at school, children have to go to the dining hall, where there are also older pupils.



STAFF

* Teachers working in kindergarten have specialized education, methodological knowledge preparing the child for going to school, and above all, knowledge of the developmental psychology of a young child.

* In the kindergarten class, two teachers work with the children every day: Polish-speaking and English-speaking.



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CONTINUITY OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

- * By keeping the child in a kindergarten reception class, the care and education are provided by a team that has overseen their development in recent years. This allows the teacher to know the child well and ensure appropriate developmental conditions tailored to their needs.
- * A significant advantage of kindergarten is the child's portfolio, created through observations each school year. The results are accessible to all teachers.
- * On the other hand, moving to school means the child must go through a new adaptation process and adjust to a new environment, as well as to a new teacher, typically for just one year, who must get to know an entirely new group of children.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The educational programme is delivered based on the National Preschool Curriculum.

In both facilities, the child will learn the same material and complete the same stage of education at a similar level of knowledge.

However, the method of its implementation is different.

The school also has mixed-age groups.





PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

- * In kindergartens, the curriculum is significantly more varied
- * Learning through play
- * Meetings with interesting people and trips
- * Manual activities interspersed with physical activities that allow the preschooler to develop in accordance with their needs

FORMS OF PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

1. In kindergarten, the core curriculum is implemented in an accessible and friendly way, in the formula of intertwining different types of activities with each other.
2. Learning is based on project work and the involvement of all the child's senses, maintaining the principle of learning through play and emotional development. Thanks to this, the child develops harmoniously and in accordance with their needs.
3. Classes in school reception are more formal, with an emphasis on work at the desk and textbooks, which is not a determinant of achieving school maturity, which is a whole set of psychophysical characteristics of the child, including emotional development.



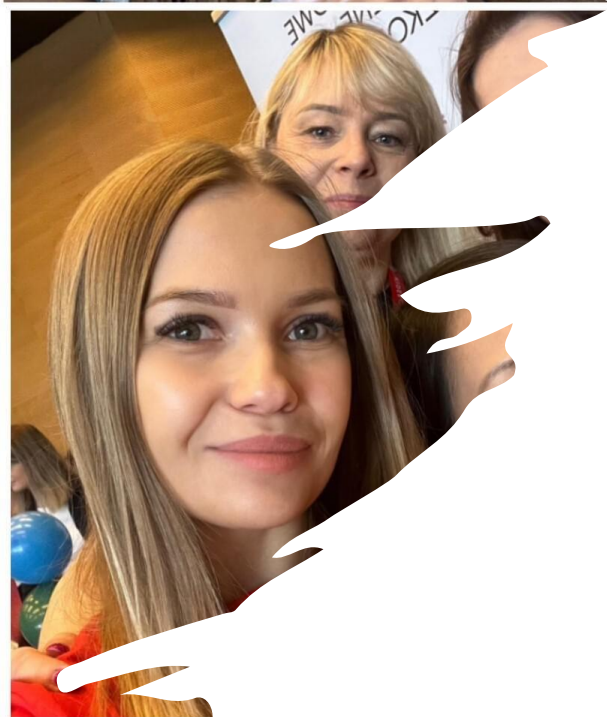
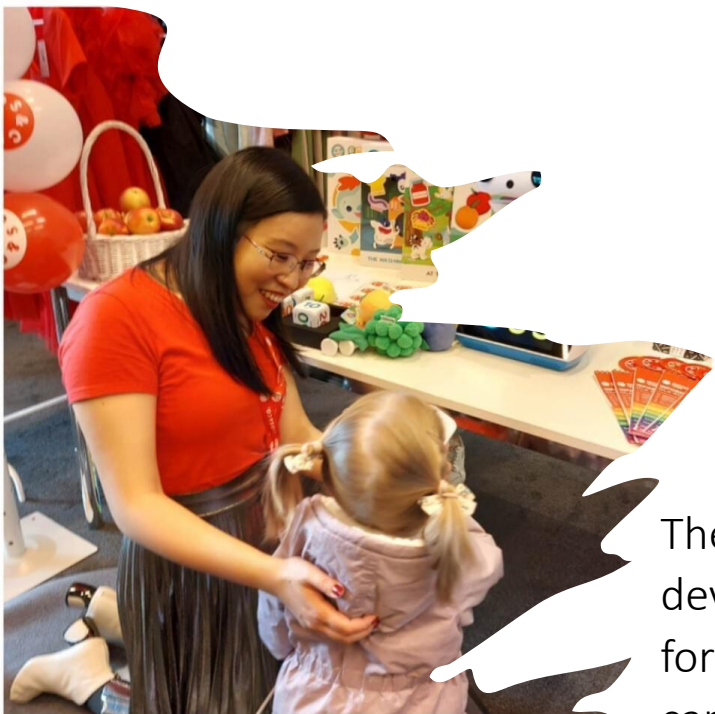








- * English is integrated throughout the child's entire time in kindergarten.
- * Additional and specialist classes during the hours of being at the facility.
- * Specialist support - psychologist and speech therapist in the kindergarten



PARENTS IN EDUCATION

The role of parents in education evolves with the child's development. In kindergarten, the parent is mainly responsible for the development of basic skills and social development and can count on daily contact with the teacher and the principal of the facility, thanks to which they can exchange their observations and discuss the successes, difficulties, sorrows and joys of their child.

In primary school, contact with the teacher and the principal, due to his working hours, is usually limited, and the role of the parent changes to one of organizer and helper in learning and developing the child's interests.

BILINGUALISM

- * In kindergarten, two teachers work with children every day: Polish-speaking and English-speaking, thanks to which children learn two languages at the same time most naturally and effectively based on an integrated program.
- * Bilingual education is a definite advantage of kindergarten. In the school reception, only one teacher works with the class, and English is taught additionally by a teacher who does not supervise one group (often from 2 to 10 hours per week), depending on the program of the given school.
- * Thus, the form of bilingual education is interrupted, and the child loses intensive contact with English in natural, everyday situations with their daily caregiver.





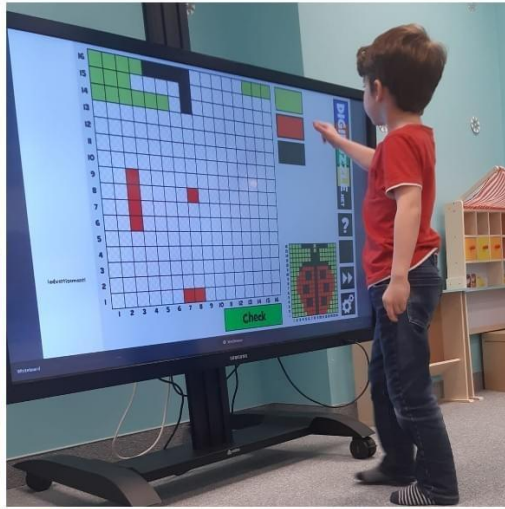
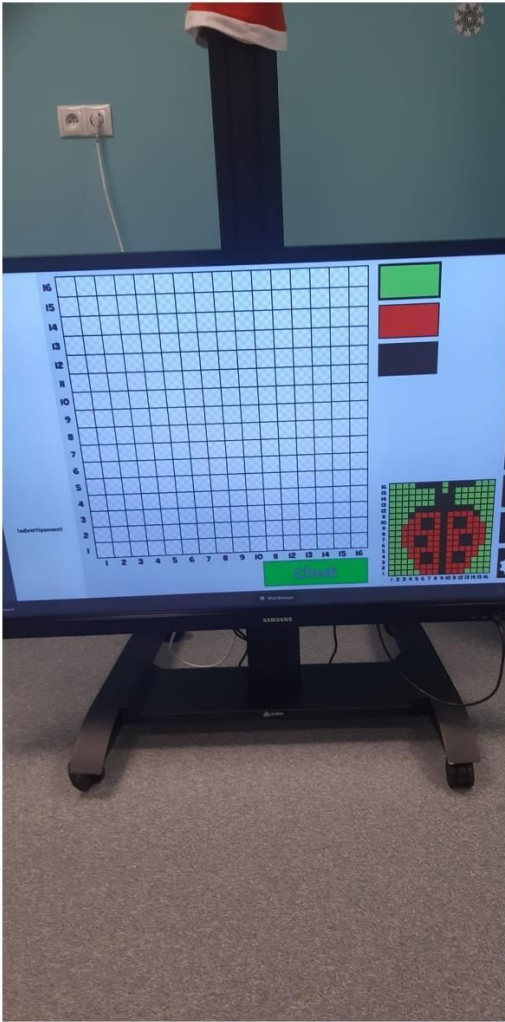
RHYTHM OF THE DAY

- * The rhythm of school life is entirely different from the rhythm of preschool life.
- * The time a child spends in preschool consists of individual didactic classes with limited time for free play.
- * The structure of preschool is very often formalised, similar to a standard school day and usually requires the parent to be more involved in the child's daily education.
- * In preschool, on the other hand, the child has the opportunity to spend time in a balanced way, where learning, play and rest intertwine in response to the current needs of the children.



LEARNING TO READ AND WRITE

Learning to read in preschool is carried out with the adaptation of natural methods based on the abilities of children. You do not need textbooks to teach a child to read.



CODING AND TECHNOLOGY

Basics of coding through games with sequences and algorithms.

Use of a coding mat and educational robots such as GeniBot/Ozobot.

Exercises developing logical thinking and problem-solving



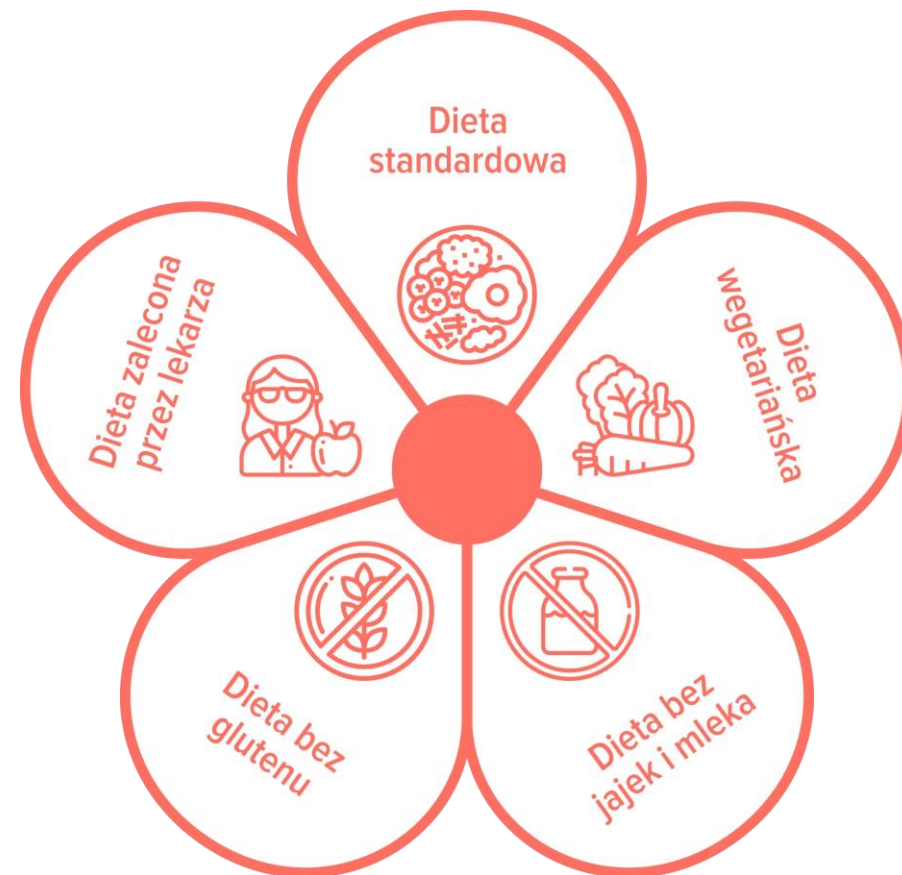
Playing with numbers, solving simple mathematical puzzles, operations on numbers, and recognizing geometric figures.

Working with manipulative materials, such as counters or blocks, as part of mathematical activities and projects with elements of mathematics.

MATHEMATICAL GAMES

HEALTH

- It is worth limiting your toddler's contact with other children to the smallest possible permanent group of peers and two educators.
- Meals on site at fixed times.
- Time for play.
- Going on trips, walks and to the playground.



EMOTIONAL READINESS

- This is an individual matter for each child.
- By definition, a toddler is emotionally ready to move to reception class.
- Change of environment. For one child, saying goodbye to the preschool stage and moving to a school where different rules apply and there is contact with older children will be attractive. However, for the second, who is not brave or aggressive, such a situation can cause a sense of fear.
- It is essential to observe the child, talk to him, and also consult the further path with the kindergarten teacher.



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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