



2019-2020
Kindergarten Information
& Resources





Choosing a School for Your Child

The following are a few suggestions to consider when selecting an elementary school for your child:

- ***Begin the process early.*** If considering private school for kindergarten, begin investigating schools when your child is three so you are ready to apply when your child is four. Most public schools hold registration in the spring for the following fall.
 - *Birth date: **Public schools:** Five as of September 1
 - Private schools:** Five as of September 1 for most, see specific schools for accurate information

- ***Discuss your values and dreams for your child's education***

- ***Research both public and private***

- ***Be open to exploring all options.***
 - Public School (assigned)
 - Public Charter (1st come, 1st served)
 - Public Magnet school (special focus - lottery & wait list)
 - Private (parochial, independent, designed for special needs)

- ***Talk to parents and professionals regarding school choice,*** but do not let them overly influence your decision-making process.

- ***Read information about trends in education***

- ***Matching your child to a school - All children are unique individuals and therefore have unique learning styles.***

- ***Talk to your child's preschool teacher***

- ***How do you find the match?*** Gather information, visit schools, and try to imagine your child in these settings. Ask yourself these questions:
 - Does your child comply easily?
 - Does your child have an attention span for non-chosen tasks?
 - Does your child engage in creative activities which are not teacher-directed?
 - Does your child enjoy exploring a subject in-depth?
 - Does your child utilize collaboration with peers to expand or enhance learning?
 - Does your child thrive on being outdoors? (Need for motor development and processing)

- ***Discuss any concerns regarding your child's style and interests openly*** with an admissions director, principal or teacher.

What to look for when you visit a school:

Prior to the visit:

- ***When you call to make an appointment***, ask for written literature prior to your visit so you can read it and be prepared to ask questions. Clarify if your child is invited to attend.
- ***Look for the following information in the school's written materials:***
 - accreditation status (Calif. Association of Independent Schools or other)
 - grades enrolled (preschools, middle school)
 - statement of philosophy/mission
 - statement of curriculum - clear explanation of academic goals and expectations
 - philosophy about being outdoors
 - homework policy and expectations
 - approach to standardize testing
 - programs for physical education, athletics, arts, music
 - programs for gifted or talented students
 - programs for students with learning disabilities or special needs
 - diversity of culture and languages
 - religious orientation
 - tuition, fees, annual giving, fund-raising and extra activities
 - uniforms or dress codes
 - parent involvement encouraged or discouraged
 - class size
 - teacher qualifications (degrees, credentials, experience)
 - teacher/child ratio (does this include aides?)
 - statement of expectations of student conduct and discipline
 - forms of assessment and testing which are conducted
 - after school and enrichment programs
 - scouting or community programs
 - emergency preparedness and community contacts
- ***Ask about admission, visiting and testing timelines.*** What are they looking for in an interview or play session with your child? How long might it last, that will your child be doing? Does the school require you to take your child for a developmental screening as a part of the admissions process?
- ***Remember you are making your first impression when you visit.***

Once you are there, look or ask for the following:

- Facility - clean, spacious, indoor and outdoor equipment, does it “feel good”?
- Friendliness of administration and teaching staff. Do you feel welcome?
- How do you see children being treated? Are adults interacting with children and demonstrating respect with them?
- How many transitions does a child make throughout the day?
- Materials, computers, textbooks
- Well-stocked library
- Class size and ratio matches written materials
- Student involvement in learning- are they active and involved?
- Is their work displayed in the room?
- Does the room feel pleasant and happy?
- Does the teacher seem happy to be there?
- Artistic/individual expression - does the children’s work on display reveal a respect for individualism and uniqueness or does it all look the same?
- Are adult/adult and child/child relationships and interaction respectful and encouraging?
- How accessible is the principal or headmaster?
- Are community events scheduled?
- Are resources organized and available, ie: parent education?
- Earthquake and disaster preparedness- Does it look safe? Is there a well-developed disaster plan?

Do you need after-school care?

- Is there on-site care at the school(s) you are considering?
- What are the hours?
- What is the typical age-range of children enrolled?
- What is the program philosophy for the after-school care?
- What are the qualifications of the staff?
- What is the staff to child ratio for the after-school care?
- Remember that in a half-day kindergarten program your child could be in after-school care more hours than in kindergarten.
- Are you interested in the CEC’s After-School Program? Contact the School-Age office though email: Allegra at allegra@ceconline.org or Talar at talar@ceconline.org or call them at our main number (818)354-3418 to find out more about it and its availability for your child. We are also available for holidays and school closure days if that is all you need.

Introduction

Integrated Learning Solutions (ILS) partners with eleven schools who are members of the Pasadena Area Independent Schools Consortium (PAIS) to assist them with screening kindergarten applicants. ILS has worked closely with the administration, admissions directors and Kindergarten teachers at each school in order to gain a solid understanding of their assessment goals, allowing ILS to provide their applicants with a school readiness screening. These schools have agreed to share the results of our carefully designed developmental screening in the hope of relieving some of the stress and repetition for the children by coordinating this portion of the admissions process. We make every effort to ensure that the screening experience will be positive and enjoyable for every child and that the application process will be streamlined. During the screening, each child will be asked to participate in a number of developmental tasks, enabling our experienced staff to observe the child's language and reasoning skills, motor skills, and visual and auditory processing skills. The screening will be individually administered by ILS personnel and will take approximately twenty-five to thirty minutes. Currently, the following independent schools screen their kindergarten applicants through ILS:

Admissions Directors

Barnhart School	Keanuene "Nue" Yim-Herrera	www.barnhartschool.org
Chandler School	Gretchen Lurie	www.chandlerschool.org
Clairbourn School	Karen Paciorek	www.clairbourn.org
Crestview Preparatory School	Michele Poteet	www.crestviewprep.org
Foothill Country Day School *	Colette Sims	www.foothillcds.org
The Gooden School	Tricia Xavier	www.goodenschool.org
High Point Academy	Kristin Haines	www.highpointacademy.org
Mayfield Junior School	Lauren Marlis	www.mayfieldjs.org
Polytechnic School	Lisa Wu	www.polytechnic.org
Saint Mark's School	Dan Hare	www.saint-marks.org
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* The FCDS Admissions Office will send families a specific link to the ILS registration. Please note the deadline for FCDS registrations is February 1, after which a \$25 late fee is applied.		

Registration

KINDERGARTEN SCREENING: REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

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Note: If you are a **sibling family** from **Chandler, High Point Academy, Mayfield Junior, Poly** or **Walden**, please secure the special sibling link from the Admissions Office. Use only the special sibling link to register your child.

Please note that you must finalize your registration in one sitting by selecting your appointment and making your payment. If you do not complete it, you cannot return to it, so you will need to register again to select and pay for your appointment. We will delete the unpaid duplicate registration.

Screening appointments are offered Monday through Saturday during the month of January. They take place at the offices of Integrated Learning Solutions at 2233 Huntington Drive, San Marino. All KSP screening appointments can only be made through the **ILS** website. Do not call the school to schedule the ILS screening.

1. If your child will be applying to kindergarten at one of the designated schools for entrance in the fall of 2020, please first contact each school and request an application packet, then complete the **ILS** online registration form between September 15, 2019 and December 15, 2019.
2. Select a convenient date/time for your child's screening appointment and pay the registration fee.
3. Print and bring to the appointment a copy of the confirmation page that will be emailed to you once your registration is processed. Any changes to school selections can be noted on this form.
4. If you have questions about the registration, or need to speak to an **ILS** representative, please feel free to contact us directly (info@integratedlearningsolutions.org or 626.568.8558).

Your child may participate in the screening only once during an admissions season. Our office will ensure that each school you designate on the registration form receives a copy of the results when the School Reports are distributed in early February. *Note: This timeline is separate from the schools' application deadlines, so parents need not be concerned about schools receiving results by the application deadlines.* We will mail you a Parent Report in mid-February 2020. The information will provide you with a valuable picture of your child's developmental profile at the time of screening.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a developmental screening?

A developmental screening is designed to assess the degree to which a child has mastered skills in areas such as language development, cognitive awareness, and information processing abilities appropriate to his or her chronological age.

How can we learn more about the application process and the screening?

ILS will join the consortium schools at the Kindergarten and Elementary Schools Options Night at **Westridge School** in Pasadena, California on **Wednesday, October, 16th, 2019 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.** ILS Directors will be on site to address parents' questions regarding kindergarten readiness, the value of an independent education, visiting schools, and finding a good match for your child. No appointment necessary.

Who administers this screening?

Members of the ILS staff administer a developmental kindergarten screening program for a consortium of independent schools located in the San Gabriel Valley. The staff and directors of ILS are well qualified for this important task. The ILS team is comprised of psychologists, developmental specialists, educators and other professionals who have many years of experience working with independent schools and families throughout the area.



What can I do to prepare my child for the kindergarten screening?

The ILS screening tool is designed to project kindergarten readiness for fall school entrance. Readiness is part of a child's natural development and cannot be hurried or taught. Encouraging your child's natural curiosity and interests, and providing them with opportunities for exploration and new experiences will support this natural process.

Please dress your child in soft, comfortable clothes or their favorite outfit, there is no need to dress up!

What should I tell my child about the screening appointment?

Avoid using words such as "test" or "screening." Many families treat this experience as a "play date". There will be other children and families waiting for their appointment as well. Please prepare your child by letting them know they will go with an adult, by themselves, to do some fun activities. The time away from the parents will last about 20 minutes.

What should we bring to the screening appointment?

Please bring a copy of the confirmation of your child's registration that will be emailed to you once you have registered online. Remember to note any additions or changes to your school list on this form and give it to the ILS administrator on duty. If you are unfamiliar with our location, we suggest that you also print out a copy of the directions which can be found in the "Contact Us" section of our website. A picture of our building and parking information is also contained in this section.

What can we expect when we arrive for our child's screening appointment?

You and your child will be welcomed by an ILS administrator in the Kindergarten Screening reception room (Suite #2). Please arrive early so that there will be ample time to check-in and give the ILS administrator your registration form with any school changes and/or additions clearly noted. You will find the Kindergarten Screening reception room to be "child friendly" with books, games and coloring materials available. You and your child will meet his/her screener when she comes to the reception room to pick up your child. Your child will be returned to you after they are finished. Often, the children ask to stay and play awhile after screening. As time and space permits, you and your child are welcome to do so.

How long will the screening appointment take?

Your child will spend approximately 25-30 minutes with an ILS screener. Please arrive at least 10 minutes early to check in with our host. This allows for extra time should you have difficulty finding us, and also so that your child can relax and settle in before being greeted by their screener.

How much emphasis do the schools place on the screening?

The emphasis placed on the developmental screening and the social readiness assessment vary as each of the schools have different priorities for admission. Such factors as gender balance, diversity, sibling and alumni preferences, and number of available spaces, can all weigh into the decisions made. All the schools share a desire to discover the best educational match for each child.

Why don't the individual schools do this screening themselves?

These consortium schools have agreed to coordinate and share the results of the developmental screening in the hope of relieving some of the stress and repetition for the children. Consequently, if your child is applying to any of the consortium schools, he/she will only participate in the screening once, despite the number of schools being considered.

Will my child have an opportunity to visit the schools we are applying to?

Yes. Your child will be invited to visit each of the schools to which he/she applies.

Will parents see the results of the screening?

Yes, results in the form of a Parent Report will be mailed to each child's family in mid-February. When you bring your child to his/her screening appointment we'll ask you to address an envelope for this purpose.

Is it better to choose a later screening date so that my child will be a few weeks older when they visits ILS?

No, your child's age will be taken into consideration by each applicant school when evaluating their performance on the various screening tasks. Also, during the screening we will be observing the process of your child's problem solving, rather than merely obtaining a score.

When will the final reports be sent to the schools? Do we need to schedule the screening early, in time for the application deadlines of our applicant schools?

All of the results will be sent en mass in early February. Therefore, there is no need to schedule your appointment early to meet a particular school's deadline. This program is on a separate timeline from the schools' application deadlines.

Can I arrange for my child to be screened by ILS even if they won't be applying to any of the consortium schools?

ILS only offers this service to consortium school applicants. This service is not offered privately.

How do I find your offices?

Our address is 2233 Huntington Drive, but we do not actually sit on Huntington Drive. We are in a brick colonial style building just to the north on Ridgeway, right behind the Starbucks in the center of San Marino. Please print the directions under "Contact Us" on our website and bring them with you. Do not use GPS; you will likely not be able to find us. If you are unsure, practice a drive-by on a day prior to your appointment. There are two photos of our building on the "Contact Us" page. The first shows the building from the intersection of Huntington Drive and Sierra Madre Boulevard; the second shows the front of the building looking north from the back of Starbucks, showing the breezeway where you will enter to find the Suite 2 waiting room.

If my child is just learning to speak English, will this be taken into consideration?

Yes. You will be able to note this information when you register your child for screening.

How much does the screening cost?

During the regular registration period, the cost of the screening is \$150.00. The amount is for the screening itself; you can have the results sent to as many of the consortium schools as you wish. The screening cost includes the time spent with your child, evaluation of thier performance, report writing, and sending of results to the parents and to the schools you designate on your registration form. For your convenience, payment is made through our secure website via credit card. If you are unable to pay online or have some other special circumstance, you may call or [email](#) our office for assistance.

Can a screening appointment be scheduled once the registration period closes?

After the regular registration period, contact the school(s) you are considering to see if they will accept a late application. If so, ILS will arrange a late screening appointment. The fee for a late screening is \$175.00. This includes a \$25.00 late screening fee which helps to cover additional administrative costs.

What if I need to change my child's appointment date/time or the schools we plan to apply to after I've completed and submitted the online registration?

If you must make a date change after you have scheduled an appointment, call our office for assistance. A \$25.00 rescheduling fee will be charged in order to help defray administrative costs. Any informational changes you wish to make to the confirmation form can simply be added and given to us at the time of your visit. Please update your school distribution list prior to the schools' submission deadlines.

What can I do if I wish to change or designate additional schools after the day of my child's screening?

Please call our office with any additions or changes to your list of schools. There is no charge to add to or change your list.

Options Night: Kindergarten and Elementary Schools

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

6:00 PM 7:30 PM

Westridge School

355 West State Street Pasadena, CA 91105

Join us for a school fair to learn about the kindergarten and elementary independent school options in the Pasadena area. Speak with admission directors and gather information from the amazing school options in our area!

Adults only, please.

Lot parking available at [355 West State Street, Pasadena](#).

- Barnhart, Chandler, Clairbourn, Crestview, FCDS, Frostig, Gooden, High Point, Mayfield, New Horizon, Poly, Saint Mark's, Sequoyah, Walden, Waverly, Westridge

2019

CALENDAR YEAR

OCTOBER

CALENDAR MONTH

MONDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Pasadena Area Independent Schools (PAIS)
School Tours Calendar - more information at
<https://www.pasadenaareaschools.org/events/>

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30	01	02 9am Clairbourn School Tour	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10 10:30am High Point School Tour	11	12	13
14	15 9am Barnhart School Tour 10:30am High Point School Tour	16 9am Barnhart School Tour 6-7:30pm PAIS Options Night @ Westridge	17 9am Barnhart School Tour 9am Mayfield Junior School 10:30am High Point School Tour	18	19 9-11:30am Chandler Admissions Open House	20
21	22 9am Barnhart School Tour 10:30am High Point School Tour	23 9am Gooden Group Tour 9am Barnhart School Tour	24 9am Clairbourn School Tour 9am Barnhart School Tour 9am Sequoyah K-8 Tour 3:30pm Barnhart Open House	25	26	27
28	29 10:30am High Point School Tour	30	31	01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10

2019

CALENDAR YEAR

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11	12	13 9am Barnhart School Tour	14 9am Barnhart School Tour 9am Sequoyah K-8 Preview/Tour 9am High Point School Tour	15	16	17
18	19 9am Gooden Group Tour 9am Barnhart School Tour 10:30am High Point School Tour	20 9am Barnhart School Tour 9am Clairbourn School Tour	21 9am Sequoyah Meet and Greet Coffee 10:30am High Point School Tour	22	23	24 1pm Barnhart Admissions Open House
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