



## Types of Classes

The English Speaking Playgroup/School (**ESP**) offers 5 types of classes:

- Playgroup classes
- Reading and Writing classes
- English as a Foreign Language classes
- Examination courses
- Private classes

Most types of classes are divided into various proficiency levels. Please discuss the capabilities of your children with the teaching staff, to ensure that they are registered into the correct level.

The **ESP** has no set curriculum for most of the classes, but nevertheless it aims to bring children to a particular level of proficiency by the end of the school-year. Statements describing these levels are given with the information about each type of class.

### Playgroup Classes

Playgroup sessions provide a happy and relaxed atmosphere for children aged 3-6 years. Various activities such as painting, handicrafts, singing and games are offered at all levels. Free time is also available to play "house" or with the train, cars, farm, etc.

The more advanced levels begin to introduce basic reading, writing and mathematics readiness skills. There is also plenty of time for creative play, stories, painting etc.

Special care is taken to offer activities that enable each child to participate at his or her own level and ability. Children are encouraged to attend classes twice a week whenever possible to promote both language and socialization skills.

**These classes are primarily for children who already speak English in their home environments.**

By the end of the school-year, your child should be able to:

- Level 1
  - ...pay attention for short periods
  - ...listen to stories
  - ...sing a number of songs
- Level 2
  - ...concentrate for longer periods
  - ...show gross motor skills
  - ...display basic numeracy skills
- Level 3
  - ...show fine motor skills
  - ...display a more advanced concept of numbers
  - ...recognise and write letters of the alphabet

## **EFL Playgroup Classes for Children with English as a Foreign Language**

English as a foreign language (EFL) playgroup classes provide a fun way of learning English for 3 - 6 year olds using singing, games, stories and handicrafts to provide a motivating and enjoyable start to learning another language.

Special care is taken to offer activities that enable each child to participate at his or her own level and ability. Children are encouraged to attend classes at least twice a week, whenever possible, to help build up language and socialization skills.

**These classes are primarily for children who do not speak English in their home environments.**

By the end of the school-year, your child should be able to:

EFL Playgroup Level 1      ...pay attention for short periods  
   ...be aware that a different language code exists  
   ...listen to short stories  
   ...follow easy directions  
   ...listen and follow a number of songs

EFL Playgroup Level 2      ...pay attention for longer periods  
   ...listen to stories  
   ...respond to simple questions  
   ...sing a number of songs

EFL Playgroup Level 3      ...concentrate for longer periods  
   ...follow directions  
   ...complete simple tasks  
   ...ask and answer simple questions  
   ...use English in songs, role-plays and games

## **Reading and Writing Classes**

These classes focus on the four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. This offers a foundation upon which parents can build. The lessons are challenging and enjoyable with an emphasis on activities that develop both oral and written comprehension from beginner to advanced levels.

**These classes are primarily for children who already speak English in their home environments.**

The proficiency levels described here are intended as guidelines only. The teaching staff will be pleased to answer your questions about your child's capabilities and progress during the school-year.

By the end of the school-year, your child should be able to:

Level 1      ...understand basic phonics  
   ...recognise differences between the various vowel sounds  
   ...write the letters of the alphabet correctly  
   ...read simple three-letter words

Level 2      ...understand the long vowel sounds  
   ...write simple sentences with appropriate punctuation  
   ...sight read commonly used words

Level 3      ...understand groups of letters representing particular sounds  
   ...read simple texts and answer questions  
   ...write on a particular topic using a number of sentences  
   ...understand the meaning of nouns, adjectives and verbs

- Level 4 ...complete logic problems  
...follow complex written instructions  
...memorise simple poems  
...use irregular verbs.
- Level 5 ...read fluently  
...express opinions about characters  
...write stories using appropriate punctuation and grammar  
...write summaries of books
- Level 6 ...research and correlate information  
...understand complex grammar  
...make verbal presentations  
...be of a high enough standard to be able to attend Cambridge English courses
- Level 7+ ...present written arguments on a particular subject  
...use English with confidence in all situations  
...be of a high enough standard to be able to attend further Cambridge English courses

## English as a Foreign Language Reading & Writing Classes

English as a foreign language (EFL) classes provide a fun way of learning and improving English language skills for 6-16 year olds.

The EFL Reading & Writing Level 3 and above classes use course material from the University of Cambridge's Cambridge English ESOL Young Learners scheme and, for an additional fee, children attending our level 3 and above courses have the opportunity of taking a Cambridge English: Young Learners test. All children taking a Young Learners test will receive a certificate showing their individual ability in English.

**These classes are primarily for children who do not speak English in their home environments.**

By the end of the school-year, your child should be able to:

- EFL Reading & Writing Level 1 ...recognise and write a few words  
...follow a series of instructions  
...start to communicate in English
- EFL Reading & Writing Level 1  
**Older beginners (8+ years)** ...use English in real life situations  
...start to recognise and use simple grammar structures  
...attend one of our EFL Level 3 Reading & Writing classes  
...sit the "Cambridge English: Pre A1 Starters" exam  
...begin the "Cambridge English: A1 Movers" course
- \*EFL Reading & Writing Level 1  
**Youth beginners (12+ years)** ...start to communicate in English  
...follow a series of instructions  
...attend one of our advanced EFL Reading & Writing classes  
...sit the "Cambridge English: Pre A1 Starters" exam  
...begin the "Cambridge English: A1 Movers" course
- EFL Reading & Writing Level 2 ...read and understand easy stories  
...write simple sentences  
...use English in real life situations  
...appreciate cultural diversity  
...begin the "Cambridge English: Pre A1 Starters" course

EFL Reading & Writing Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...read and understand more complex stories</li> <li>...start to recognise and use simple grammar structures</li> <li>...listen and react to tasks given verbally</li> <li>...use spoken and written English in small class projects</li> <li>...sit the “Cambridge English: Pre A1 Starters” exam</li> <li>...begin the “Cambridge English: A1 Movers” course</li> </ul>
EFL Reading & Writing Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...read and understand increasingly complex stories</li> <li>...start to recognise more complex grammar structures</li> <li>...speak English with confidence</li> <li>...sit the “Cambridge English: A1 Movers” exam</li> <li>...begin the “Cambridge English: A2 Flyers” course</li> </ul>
EFL Reading & Writing Level 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...speak English with increasing confidence</li> <li>...start to be able to use more complex grammar structures</li> <li>...sit the “Cambridge English: A2 Flyers” exam</li> <li>...study for a Cambridge English A2 KEY exam</li> </ul>
EFL R & W with A2 KEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...speak English with total confidence</li> <li>...understand spoken English without hesitation</li> <li>...study for a Cambridge English B1 PRELIMINARY exam</li> <li>...join an advanced non EFL Reading &amp; Writing Class</li> </ul>

\* This class is not currently planned for the school year 2020 - 2021, however, if a desired class is not currently being offered, please contact the Business Manager at [info@esp-bern.ch](mailto:info@esp-bern.ch) to register an interest. Additional classes can be started subject to there being sufficient interest.

## Standard Examination Courses

These courses prepare pupils for the University of Cambridge’s Cambridge English ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) A2 KEY, B1 PRELIMINARY, B2 FIRST, C1 ADVANCED and C2 PROFICIENCY examinations. These are internationally recognised qualifications and are accepted in practically all institutions and work situations where proof of English skills is required. They are also useful for those seeking additional help with, or exemption from, English lessons at local Swiss secondary schools. All children are eligible to take these examinations regardless of the language spoken by their parents or in their home environment.

Examinations are taken at an approved testing centre, usually in Bern and the ESP will enter the candidates for the examinations as a group ESP entry. Examination fees are not included in the ESP's term fees and will be charged as an addition. Examinations are usually taken in June.

These supplementary courses concentrate on examination techniques and up to and including the C1 ADVANCED course are offered **only** to those pupils also attending a non-examination class at the ESP.

For the A2 KEY course, this must be at least a Level 6 Reading & Writing course.

For the B1 PRELIMINARY course, this must be a weekly Level 7, 8 or 9 Reading & Writing course.

For the B2 FIRST course, this must be at least a Level 8 Reading & Writing course.

For the C1 ADVANCED course, this must be a Level 9, S2 or S3 Reading & Writing course.

ESP teaching staff will decide whether or not a child has reached a satisfactory standard to be able to benefit from these additional courses.

## **EFL with A2 KEY Course**

This course is run for older and advanced EFL pupils only. This course offers additional support to non-native English speakers and concentrates on improving their English such that they will be able to take the A2 KEY examination at the end of the school year. At the end of this course they should be able to join a higher level native English class, either weekly or monthly alongside a standard B1 PRELIMINARY examination course.

## **Private Classes**

These classes are individually tailored to each student's specific needs, based on their level of English as well as on whichever skill(s) the student may wish to focus on. This, for example, can include working on pronunciation, building vocabulary as well as grammar and examination preparation. Private classes are available for both adults and children.

Each class normally lasts for 45 or 60 minutes but other class durations can be accommodated by arrangement.

## **Distance Learning Private Classes**

These classes allow students to study remotely whilst still having one to one interaction with a teacher. The classes are individually tailored to each student's specific needs, based on their level of English as well as on whichever skill(s) the student may wish to focus on. This, for example, can include working on pronunciation, building vocabulary as well as grammar and examination preparation. Distance Learning Private classes are available for both adults and children.

Each class normally lasts for 45 or 60 minutes but other class durations can be accommodated by arrangement.