



TUTOR TIME INTERNATIONAL NURSERY & KINDERGARTEN

Readiness for the New World

The quality and character of a child's early education can determine competence and competitiveness in the global setting.

A child's holistic development is a most valuable investment. To rear globally competitive and well-balanced youth, Hong Kong needed a new kind of preschool. It had to provide excellent, child-centered education based on proven approaches, an immersive English/Mandarin program fully integrated with preschool content to produce students with high degrees of ability in both languages, and a strong curriculum for children aged 6 months to 6 years at standards for entering the most prestigious local and international primary schools.

This was the premise for the establishment of Tutor Time, one of the largest providers of preschool educational services in the United States, the ideal child-friendly environment in which to embed a full-immersion English/Mandarin program. Its StartSmart and LifeSmart curricula, based on the works of early childhood experts Piaget and Howard Gardner, provide hands-on, age-appropriate, interesting materials and projects from which academic learning develops along with social skills and confidence.

Full Immersion

Tutor Time Hong Kong opened simultaneously in Kowloon Tong and Tai Tam in 2000. It has since expanded to key areas with a second Kowloon Tong school and campuses at Braemar Hill, Mid-levels and Central.

Parents recognize that excellent preschool education increases a child's chances of acceptance into highly rated primary schools, as well as the huge advantages for children fluent in both English and Mandarin. Many international



al kindergartens introduce Mandarin once or twice a week for a couple of hours, often with an English-speaking teacher in the room. Seeking to augment bilingual instruction, Tutor Time sets children's language exposure ratio at 50:50; each language is spoken exclusively during respective sessions and conducted solely by native speakers. Children become quickly accustomed to the sounds of each language and grow proficient in both.

Students native to either language also benefit from the full immersion program. Babies attending classes rapidly pick up two languages; those who join slightly later have the choice to take part in a more intensive program to bring up the level of their second language.

Modern Methodology

Tutor Time constantly pushes back the boundaries of early childhood education by reviewing and implementing new programs and methods of teaching to complement its curriculum. Continual research ensures seamless integration with primary school programs. The school merges technology with traditional teaching methods to deliver interesting educational experience for students.

Interactive learning walls have been introduced to enhance children's learning. Toddlers use them for artwork or sharing songs and stories. They support older students' learning in a range of

subjects, including literacy. Classrooms have Internet cameras so parents can monitor their children's activities through streaming videos.

The school works closely with families, having deep respect for parents' views. Recognizing that good communication is essential, Tutor Time regularly seeks feedback on all its operations to help shape future policies. Parents have direct contact with their child's teacher through its interactive website, where they can also view photos and read weekly updates of class activities.

Outstanding facilities also distinguish the school. It constantly reviews classroom learning materials and playground toys to ensure that children from 6 months to 6 years have beautiful, age-appropriate equipment, all imported from The USA. Campuses feature a nature center and an atelier for explorative play, as well as spacious and challenging indoor and outdoor play areas and gyms to address the importance of physical development.

Tutor Time's focus has forever been to provide the best possible preschool education. It is in constant search for learning opportunities in underserved areas and always puts a premium on excellence and values. Its caring and qualified teachers, strong and endlessly evolving bilingual curriculum, beautifully maintained campuses, and ceaseless determination to further improve its service are all testament to this. ■

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