

School Examination Before Enrollment

The school entrance examination (Schuleingangsuntersuchung — SEU or Einschulungsuntersuchung — ESU), is an important step before starting school. It helps determine whether a child is ready for school. During the examination, a doctor assesses whether the child can concentrate well, is healthy, and gets along with other children. This examination is not an evaluation of the child's abilities but rather a snapshot of their developmental status. The school entrance examination also reviews which vaccinations and preventive check-ups your child has received.

Participation in the school entrance examination is mandatory for all children before starting school.

The school entrance examination helps your child start school well-prepared!

When and where does the examination take place?

Depending on the municipality, all parents receive a letter from the city or community around November/December before starting school or near the child's 6th birthday, containing important information. The letter specifies when and where the examination will be held.

What is examined during the school examination?

During the school examination, various developmental areas are assessed. The child does not need to be perfect in everything; the purpose is to determine in which areas they are already capable and where they might need additional support. Here are some examples:

1. Cognitive Development

- The child can recognize sounds within words or identify colors in a picture.
- They can arrange pictures of a story in the correct order.

2. Physical Development

- The child has good vision and hearing (vision and hearing tests are conducted).
- They can carry their school bag.

3. Motor Skills Development

- The child can stand on one leg and hop.
- They can draw basic shapes.
- They can cut with scissors and hold a pencil correctly.



4. Language Development

- The child speaks clearly and understandably in the family language.
- It can form simple and longer sentences.
- It can retell a short story.

5. Emotional Development

- The child can be without mom or dad for a while.
- It can delay needs and tolerate frustration for a while.
- It shows interest and asks questions.

6. Social Skills

- The child can play with other children and get along with them.
- It can focus on a task within a group.
- It can adapt to new situations.
- It can understand and follow simple rules.



School entry examination is not a German test. If your child can speak well with you as parents in the family language, they will also learn to speak German well.

Important information for parents

- Take your time for the examination so that neither you nor your child are under stress.
- Bring the necessary documents, which you will receive by mail with the invitation to the school entry examination, as well as your child's vaccination record and health booklet.
- If you have any questions or uncertainties, you can contact the local health department, the regional state offices for schools and education (RLSB), or your child's pediatrician.

Don't worry if your child doesn't do everything perfectly. The examination is not a test, and every child develops differently. If the examination shows that your child still needs support, there are options to help them progress.

Additional links:

<https://tinyurl.com/Landesgesundheitsamt-Nds>



<https://tinyurl.com/serviceportal-Niedersachsen>

