CHOOSING SCHOOLS CATALOGUE - 2011

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR A SCHOOL IN STOCKHOLM

INTRODUCTION

Active choice of school

All children resident in the City of Stockholm are guaranteed a place in a pre-school class. For the school year 2011/2012 a choice is made for pre-school class for children who reach the age of six during 2011. The possibility of making an active choice increases the opportunity for your child to get a placement at the place you wish.

Choose on the Internet

Between 15 January and 15 February you can make a choice for pre-school class using the e-service *Skolval Stockholm - val av förskoleklass* [School choice Stockholm - choice of pre-school class]. Log in on www.stockholm.se/skolval and make your choice. You can also apply for a place at a leisure-time centre there.

Get an e-identity

In order to be able to log in to the e-service you will need an e-identity/Bank ID, which you can get via your bank or Telia. Read more about e-identity and how you acquire one on www.elegitimation.se or on www.stockholm.se/skolval.

Key dates (timeline?)

School choice period 15 January to 15 February.
Notice of placement in a pre-school class will be provided by 15 March at the latest.
The autumn term will start on Monday, 22 August (municipal schools). The start for independent schools may vary.

Questions

Questions concerning choice of school can be answered by the City of Stockholm's Contact Centre, telephone +46 (0)8-508 00 508. E-mail: kontaktcenter@stockholm.se

BEFORE CHOOSING A SCHOOL:

There are both municipal and independent schools in Stockholm. In order to be allowed to run an independent school the owner must have a permit from the Swedish Schools Inspectorate. As custodian, you can choose a pre-school class either in a municipal school or in an independent school. Neither the municipal nor independent schools are allowed to charge tuition fees.

Most independent schools use a queuing system. It is not possible to enter a queue for the municipal compulsory schools. All applications there are dealt with after the school choice period (15 January to 15 February) has ended.

Most children attend pre-school class

Pre-school classes stimulate every child's development and learning and also form a basis for future school attendance.

Most children attend a pre-school class the year before they start school year 1 of the compulsory school. In this way the child gets to prepare themself prior to the school start in a playful way. The pre-school class provides an introduction to the education methods of pre-schools and compulsory schools.

This education method is based on a lot of play and social training. The pre-school teachers work closely with teachers and recreation instructors. The pupils attend pre-school class three hours per day and can be at the leisure-time centre the rest of the day.

Leisure-time centre (school child care)

The leisure-time centre is a supplement to school, where children can play and participate in various recreational activities. They are open before and after school; participation in recreational activities is voluntary, but a charge is imposed subject to a maximum tariff.

You can read more on www.stockholm.se/ForskolaSkola. Select *Skolbarnsomsorg — Fritidshem och fritidsklubb* [School child care — Leisure-time centres and leisure-time clubs].

You apply for a place in a municipal or an independent leisure-time centre at the same time as you make your choice for a pre-school class.

Compare schools in *Jämför Service* [Compare Service]

The City of Stockholm has brought all schools within the municipality together in Jämför Service to make it easier for you to compare the schools. You can also get information about which schools are selectable by the e-service on www.stockholm.se/jamfor .

You can also find information on the schools' own websites. Addresses are available under '*Presentation av grundskolorna*' [Presentation of compulsory schools] in this catalogue.

Children in need of special support

Your child is entitled to support in school. This support should be structured according to the needs and capacity of your child and primarily given in the group or class to which the child belongs.

Independent schools with special orientation

There are independent schools with orientation towards pupils in need of special support, for instance children with autism, difficulties in concentration, Asperger's syndrome, ADHD, etc. Read more about these schools: www.stockholm.se/jamfor

Schools for children with learning disabilities

The school for children with learning disabilities form of school is available for those pupils who, owing to an intellectual disability, autism or conditions resembling autism, cannot achieve the objectives of the compulsory school. (Chapter 3, Section 3 of the Education Act).

More information about schools for children with learning disabilities is available on the Skolverket [Swedish National Agency for Education] website www.skolverket.se (under the links *Förskola & Skola [Pre-school & School]* and thereafter *Grundsärskola [Compulsory school for children with intellectual disabilities]*

Mother tongue support

Children who have a mother tongue other than Swedish can get mother tongue support in the pre-school class. If at least one parent has a mother tongue other than Swedish and uses this in their daily contact with the child, the child is entitled to mother tongue support in pre-school class.

School transport

Your child is entitled to school transport if you apply for a pre-school place in the municipal school that is closest to your home and the distance between the school and your home is more than two kilometres.

Principles of selection

Each school tries to satisfy your first choice. If there are more applicants to a school than there are places, the school will make a selection according to certain selection principles. Read more about these at www.stockholm.se/skolval

The selection principles may be different at independent schools. Certain independent schools have queues, which means that you must apply for your child to the school before the school choice period. Contact the independent school in which you are interested to get in the queue or to learn about the selection principles that apply there.

You are unable to get into a queue for the municipal schools. All applications there are dealt with after the school choice period (15 January to 15 February) has ended.

Notice of placement in pre-school class

When the admissions have been completed you will receive an offer for a placement in a pre-school class for your child. You should receive notice no later than 15 March.

HOW TO CHOOSE PRE-SCHOOL CLASS

E-identity

In order to be able to select a pre-school class you must have an e-identity or Bank ID. You can get this via your bank or Telia.

Selecting a pre-school class that is available using e-service

All municipal and a number of independent compulsory schools can be selected using the e-service *Skolval Stockholm — att välja förskoleklass [School choice - to select a pre-school class]*. The independent schools that are selectable in the e-service are shown in the Catalogue and in Jämför Service.

When you apply, rank the three alternatives where you want your child to get a place. Enter there your wishes concerning a leisure-time centre.

Selecting an independent school that is not selectable using e-service

If you wish to select an independent school that cannot be selected using e-service, you should contact the school yourself to find out the selection principles that the school applies and whether it has a queue. They have their own application forms that are to be sent directly to the independent school.

Selecting a pre-school class via standard form

If you do not have a possibility of selecting a pre-school class via the e-service, you can order a form from the Contact Centre +46(0)8-508 00 508. These forms are also available at www.stockholm.se/skolval. The same school choice period applies, that is to say between 15 January and 15 February.

AFTER CHOOSING

Notice of placement in pre-school class

When the admissions have been completed you will receive an offer for a placement in a pre-school class for your child. You should receive notice no later than 15 March.

Changing school

If you want to change schools when you child has been granted a placement, you should contact the school that you want to change to. The head of the school that you want to change to will determine whether it is possible to receive your child. If you also wish to change leisure-time centres, you must notify both the school and the leisure-time centre.

AFTER PRE-SCHOOL CLASS

New curriculum with syllabuses

When pupils start year 1, the education follows the national curriculum with syllabuses. In the autumn term of 2011 we will have a new curriculum with syllabuses, which in many ways resembles the current curriculum.

The aim is that there should be clearer syllabuses to create a more fair and equal education system. Written assessments of pupil's development in knowledge are provided each term from year 1 in all subjects in which the pupil has had teaching.

The new Education Act - for knowledge, choice and security

The new Education Act, which will start to apply as of 1 July 2011, has a clear and simple structure with rules that as far as possible are common for all forms of school and principal organisers. It is adapted to a goal-oriented school where knowledge is placed in focus.

Some of the new items within the Education Act:
All pupils are entitled to develop as far as possible on the basis of their own preconditions.
This also applies to pupils who can easily achieve the knowledge objectives.

- The education shall be designed so that all pupils are assured a school environment that is characterised by security and calmness for studying.

- The head and the teaches are given clear powers to take immediate and temporary action in order to ensure that pupils get security and calmness for studying at school.

- The head shall decide on whether a pupil is to get special support.

- Pupils in need of special support are entitled to have a programme of action where the support is described.

School healthcare

When your child starts school, they will have contact with the school healthcare. The school healthcare then takes over the responsibility of the child healthcare service for the health development of children and young people.