

Elckerlyc International School



Group 0

Welcome to Group 0

In Group 0 we endeavour to give your child the best start to their school life. We strive to develop confident and happy children who are eager to learn and share their experiences with others in a safe and stimulating environment. Trained staff provide a curriculum relevant to young children. It is our aim in Group 0 that every child develops a lively, enquiring mind, feels happy, safe and secure and fulfils his or her potential in every aspect of their progress and growth.

To achieve this we provide a well-resourced, stimulating environment that:

- protects and nurtures the well-being and health of the child;
- encourages active learners to question, gain in confidence and motivation;
- encourages a sense of belonging and active involvement in the education process for children and their families;
- ensures that opportunities for learning are fair and each child's contribution and individuality is valued, irrespective of gender, ethnic background or age;
- recognises, promotes and protects the language and actions of our own and other cultures;
- recognises that children learn through exploration;
- values and promotes play as a meaningful learning process;
- provides a broad, balanced curriculum that meets the needs of each child, reflecting the areas of learning set out in the International Early Years Curriculum (IEYC).
- provides opportunities for children to take on responsibilities, and to share in decisions that affect them;
- recognises that the building of knowledge and skills should be planned and appropriate to each child's needs.

Early childhood is a crucial stage of life in terms of a child's physical, intellectual, language, emotional and social development and their well being. Up to the age of six, growth is rapid and a large proportion of their learning takes place during these years. It is important how and what a child learns at this stage. This is taken into consideration when planning activities throughout the day. The children are constantly experiencing different challenges and building upon their existing skills. We offer a wealth of activities and experiences based on the the International Early Years Curriculum (IEYC).

Group 0 is an integral part of our school and pupils have the opportunity to be involved in activities within the wider school.

Attending school

Settling in

When your child is enrolled in Group 0, staff consider your involvement and support to be essential. Your encouragement will help your child to settle happily and confidently and to feel secure in the knowledge that home and school are working together.

There will be an evaluation period of 1 month. However, after this period, if staff have any concerns, you will be invited in for a meeting. It may be that a different learning environment would be a more suitable option for your child. The staff are always available to talk to you if you have questions but please be aware certain times of the day are busier than others.

Once the children have settled in at the beginning of the school year, the Group 0 class representatives will organise a coffee session where you will have the opportunity to meet other parents.



Settling in

Once children feel secure and happy at school we find that it helps them to attend regularly to establish a routine. Parents are asked to send a note of any holiday dates planned during term time and to complete a leave of absence form which can be obtained from the office or completed via the app. To avoid undue stress and disruption to the rest of the group, it is helpful for children to be brought and collected promptly, so that they can come and go at the same time as their friends.

Please let us know when there is a change to the usual collection arrangements, notification should be made in writing and given to a member of the Group 0 staff. If the change to the usual arrangement is unexpected, parents are asked to telephone the school. Please don't forget to inform the afterschool organisation too.



Planning and the curriculum

The Group 0 team takes great pride in the thorough planning of the curriculum, to ensure that the needs of the children are met. Thorough planning enables us to offer high quality, relevant learning experiences. Our planning is based on long and medium objectives:

Long-term plans provide a two year programme of units and festivals.

Activities in the class are planned for children's individual interests and abilities and are based on the criteria of the International Early Years Curriculum (IEYC). There are 4 main areas.

Independence and Interdependence

This relates to skills such as dressing and undressing without help, working in a group or alone and feeling confident in new situations.

Communicating

This covers: Speaking and Listening, reading, writing, number, shape and measures, ICT and expressive arts and creativity.

Enquiring

This area includes science, geography, history, and environmental studies.

Healthy Living and Physical Well-being

This area includes games, gym and how to look after ourselves.

In addition **Music and Dutch** are offered to all children.

Partnership with Parents



We recognise the great educational influence that you, as a parent, have in your child's life and we value the contribution you make.

Twice a year there are parent - teacher conferences when we meet with you to discuss your child's progress. We issue a report at the end of the school year. Parents are always welcome at school and once your child has settled in, we value your help in the group. If you have spare time, please let us know and staff will discuss activities that you could help with.

We communicate with parents via email using Emailworks. Please ensure your sign up immediately to ensure you are well informed about school activities.

Sickness

Should your child be sick, please telephone school on the first day of your child's illness or register their absence via the app. Please inform us if the illness is contagious. Children who have suffered from diarrhoea or vomiting should be kept at home for 24 hours after the last episode.

This precaution is in everyone's interest.

If a child falls ill at school, parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child. From time to time children will have minor accidents that will be dealt with by staff. Sometimes a decision is made to contact a parent or carer immediately.

Allergies

If your child suffers from any allergies, please complete the allergy form available from the office.

Class representatives

Each class has 1 or 2 class representatives who liaise between teacher and parents and help coordinate events during the year. Communication is mainly through email so the first job of the class representative is to collate a voluntary email contact list of parents and staff in Group 0. We will ask for volunteers in the first few weeks of term.

Group information

Clothing and shoes

We recommend that children come to school wearing appropriate, washable clothes as they are regularly involved in practical and often messy activities. As children are encouraged to develop independent, self-help skills, we suggest that they wear clothes that they can easily manage themselves.

Great

Trousers with elastic waists/ leggings

Shoes with Velcro

Loose fitting clothes (especially on gym day)

String sewn onto gloves to keep them together

Not so great

Difficult trousers with zips and buttons

Shoes with laces/boot with difficult zips

Tight clothing

Belts

Too many layers

Coats with difficult fastenings

Please could you provide your child with firm soled indoor shoes, (velcro fastening gym shoes are ideal). Please can you ensure that they are named.

Outside play is offered every day, so please make sure your child has outdoor clothing appropriate for the weather. Clothing should be named.



Group information

Snack and lunch

Your child will need to bring a snack and lunch to school every day. The school promotes healthy eating such as fruit, yoghurt, sandwiches etc. The school will provide water to drink. Please ensure your child's snack and lunch box is labeled with their name and that the food does not contain nuts. Again, please make us aware of any particular food allergies that your child may have.

Gym

Your child will have gym once a week and we recommend that children should be dressed in loose clothing such as jogging pants or leggings. You be informed of the day at the beginning of the term.

Library

We will visit the school library once a week, where your child will have the opportunity to choose a book and DVD to take home. Your child will be provided with a blue book bag. Please ensure that the book is returned before the next library visit and placed in the box inside the classroom.

Birthday celebrations

It is an Elckerlyc tradition to celebrate birthdays. In Group 0 we will make your child a special birthday hat and sing birthday songs. You may bring in a treat e.g. cakes or biscuits, for the class. During the day your child and a friend will be allowed to visit other teachers to give them a treat. Please check that there are **no nuts** in the treats you provide.



The School Day

Door opens	8.15
Start	8.30
Snack and play	10.30
Home time	Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 14:45 Wednesday 12:30 Friday 11:45

Daily Routines in Group 0

At the start of each session we ask the parents to encourage their child to be independent by supporting them as they:

- unpack their own snack and lunch boxes and place them on the rack
- place their back pack in the boxes underneath the coat racks
- hang up their coat on their own coat peg
- bring blue bags in daily
- find their name card
- change into their indoor shoes



Table top activities

To allow children to feel comfortable and relaxed we begin the day with an assortment of table top activities. Please encourage your child to select an activity from the tables when they arrive.

Carpet time

All the children sit on the carpet and are taught the focus of the day. It usually begins about 10 minutes after school starts. This is an important time for your child as it is an opportunity for them to share news and for the teacher to talk about the day's activities.

Registration

The register will be taken at carpet time.

The School Day

Being helpful

Each day a special helper is chosen. We ensure that every child has a turn. The children are encouraged to help tidy up at the end of the session and the special helper can set the table for snack time. All the children are encouraged to be helpful to each other.

Afterschool Care

Your child must be collected from the classroom in the first few weeks of the school year. We ask the children to remain in their seats until you come to collect them. When the children have settled into school life, we will take the children outside for collection (we will inform you about this nearer the time). If, for any reason, you are going to be late, please telephone ahead so that we can tell your child. This helps to prevent any upset. If another adult is collecting your child, please inform the class teacher in writing. Children are encouraged to shake hands with the teacher before leaving the class. This is also a security measure. Please let us have your child's after school schedule if they are not going home regularly with a parent.

Moving on to Group 1

A place in Group 1 will be offered on the agreement between the teachers that your child is ready for this move. The majority of Group 0 children do transfer into Group 1 but on occasions it is more appropriate for a child to follow the Group 0 programme for a second year. The move will happen at the beginning of the new school year if your child is 4 by October 1st of that year. Throughout your child's time in Group 0, we aim to foster a close relationship with the staff and children in Group 1 and the rest of the school, so that there will be a smooth transition

Any further questions

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact us.

Contact details :

School office:	071 – 589 6861
Email:	international@elckerlyc.net
Website:	www.elckerlyc.net