

In our region, newcomers in primary school from age 6 attend the International Language Class (ITK). In the ITK, the children receive a specific, tailor-made temporary programme. After an average of one year, they move on to a school in their neighbourhood.

How do I register my child as a newcomer?

There is always room in the ITK and children can start at any time. As a parent you can contact the ITK directly or schools can also refer your child/ren. They will inform the ITK about the referral. It is helpful if the school emails or calls the ITK to inform them that they have made the referral (name of child, telephone number of parents). Contacting the ITK together with the teacher at your child's school will facilitate the process.

To begin with, parents are given a tour of the school and an intake interview.

Tailor-made specific temporary offer:

In the ITK, every child starts with an initial test. In the initial test, knowledge is gathered regarding the development of their own language, motor skills, technical reading (own language and Dutch language), spelling, reading comprehension, mental arithmetic, Maths skills, Dutch vocabulary. Interim and final goals are determined on the basis of the initial test and the data collected during the intake interview. The child then starts with their tailor-made program and they are independently tested every 13 weeks. As soon as the child has almost reached the final goals, parents can then start actively looking for a school.

Transition from the ITK into a school

Before a child starts at school, there is a minimum of:

- An intake interview with the parents
- Contact with the ITK
- At least 1 adjustment day for the child
- Transfer document emailed from the ITK
- Conversation between the ITK teacher and teacher of your school
- After that, support is possible from the ITK (call or email the ITK to arrange this)

The child is under 6 years old

We see that many children aged 4-5 learn the Dutch language well in a regular kindergarten class. This has the advantage that the child no longer has to change schools and can go to school in the neighbourhood. Sometimes it doesn't work though so there are kindergarten classes in the ITK. The kindergarten classes consist of sisters/brothers of older children who are in the ITK and children who are referred by a school. Every school can reserve a temporary place for a fee (this is what the ITK calls an arrangement) for toddlers who have been in the Netherlands for less than a year. This reserved temporary place costs 1000 euros every six months.