

# 7 useful tips

on preparing your child for  
Secondary admission tests!



1.

## OPENLY DISCUSS YOUR CHOICE OF SCHOOLS WITH YOUR CHILD

Choosing a school requires teamwork. You know what is best for your child and your child knows what interests him or her. So talk about it, share your thoughts and preferences and make sure that your child is **really motivated** to attend the chosen schools.

2.

## PARENTS SHOULD SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH EACH OTHER!

A consistent parental position is the first step in the right direction to support your child and help him or her build **self-esteem**. Solidarity between parents makes it possible to avoid ambiguous situations that may cause your child to lose confidence.

3.

## REVIEW TEST SUBJECTS AS NEEDED

Media coverage on entrance exam has created a lot of pressure and given rise to an entire "exam preparation" industry. Targeting concerned parents, this industry offers a complete range of products designed to help students pass their exams.

If your child passed Grade 5, then he or she is more than ready to take the exams! However, if you think it is necessary, you can review what they learned in elementary French and Math, especially:

- ❑ **mathematics:** operations, decimal points, fractions, measuring angles, areas and volumes;
- ❑ **French:** conjugation, spelling, sentence grammar, reading strategies, vocabulary, punctuation;

The entrance exams also assess the ability to solve problems, observe and reason. No studying is necessary.

**Warning!** Too much studying can hinder success! It can increase your child's stress levels and cause him or her to freeze up during the exam.

## 4.

### HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!

Having a positive attitude is a proven asset. Combined with **positive reinforcement**, it helps your child develop confidence and instills the desire for success in him or her. It is the best way to stimulate your child and also extremely easy to practice everyday. **Happy children give the best of themselves out of pure pleasure.** The following are some specific suggestions that may help you:

- ❑ Control the climate **before and on the day of the tests**:
  - i. Show your child that you are confident in his or her abilities and capabilities.
  - ii. Spare your child insignificant everyday problems that may distract his or her focus.
  - iii. Agree on a bedtime schedule for the days before the tests.
  - iv. Ensure a healthy diet to increase his or her concentration.
  - v. Make sure your child plays outside and is physically active to decrease his or her anxiety.
  - vi. Leave early enough on the day of the tests to deal with unforeseen events and avoid stress.
- ❑ Control the climate **after** the tests:
  - i. Warmly congratulate your child immediately after the tests.
  - ii. Offer to let your child do a special or fun activity to get his or her mind off of the tests.
  - iii. Reassure your child that **these tests are not the only possibility but rather one of many options.**

## 5.

### FAMILIARIZE YOUR CHILD WITH MULTIPLE-CHOICE TESTS

It is possible that your child has never taken a multiple-choice test. Although some children have seen them in magazines, most children could definitely use some practice answering multiple-choice questions. Children must, in fact, develop **specific reflexes** such as not lingering over a question they don't know the answer to and coming back to it at the end of the test if there is still time.

## 6.

### HANDLE REJECTION PROPERLY

Keep in mind that talking regularly with your child, solidarity among parents and a positive climate are all important. **It is also essential to realize that not being selected by a school does not necessarily mean that your child has failed the tests.** Since the number of spaces is limited, not all students who apply for admission can be admitted.

In case your child is not selected after one of the test sessions and to prepare him or her for this possibility, your child must clearly understand that there are other options. That is when you reap the benefits of having talked about the options with your child beforehand. There are **other options and advantages** that you have determined together. Furthermore, there is no reason you cannot register your child again the following year for the Secondary 2 admission tests, after carefully preparing a personalized study outline, as needed.

## 7.

### LISTEN TO YOUR CHILD

Always listen to your child, let him or her express his or her preferences and motivations and, most importantly, work as a team! Give a lot of love and affection too and you and your child will both greatly benefit! **Your child is a unique person.** And you know the best recipe and ingredients that will ensure his or her balance and welfare.