

BEC seminar: Expat Kids in Czech Schools (March 2020)

BEC Introduction

All basic information is contained in our info text which is available on our website:

<https://www.brnoexpatcentre.eu/im-an-expat/schools/>

PLEASE READ IT FIRST BEFORE YOU CONTACT SOMEONE WITH QUESTIONS.

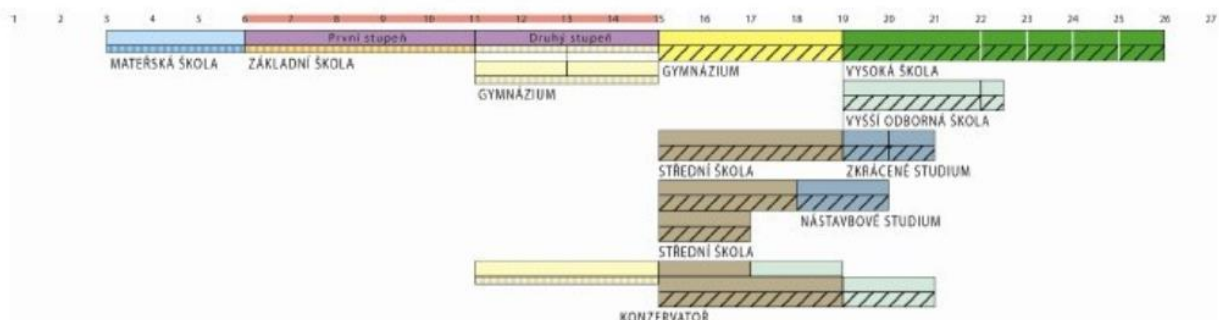
This document contains information mentioned during the seminar, complementing the facts stated in the info text above.

Seminar speakers and their contact addresses:

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- Bc. Karin Atassi, integration advisor, Brno City Municipality – atassi.karin@brno.cz
- representatives of Brno **private schools teaching in English**:
 - Jan Švihálek, head of school at International School of Brno – jan.svihalek@isob.cz
 - Pavel Novák, head of school at American Academy - novak@americanacademy.cz
- representatives of Brno's **language schools**:
 - Václav Solich, owner of Correct Language Centre - solich@jc-correct.com
 - Kateřina Puczoková, coordinator of educational activities at Centre for Foreigners JMK - puczokova.katerina@kr-jihomoravsky.cz

An overview of the Czech school system:

Czech Republic



KINDERGARTENS

- find your “catchment area KG” via this [application map](#);
- you can apply for several KGs and hope for a place; if your child is the final pre-school year, KG is compulsory and your catchment KG MUST have a place for your child
- fill out the application form [here](#) and follow the process in the given dates
- your child can attend a private KG which is registered by the Ministry of Education
- in case of problems, you can contact the MMB Department of Education
- an assessment in [PPP](#) can assign support measures such as extra Czech lessons (legal ground: section 16 and 20, par. 5 and 6 of the [Schools Act](#); Decree no. 27/2016)
- **It is definitely worth considering to put your child in a Czech-speaking KG since age 3 (even if it meant paying for a private one) because it will ease their learning of Czech, which means way less complications and problems once the child enters primary school. Some English-speaking KG sometimes offer extra Czech lessons.**

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- find your “catchment area school” via this [application map](#);
- you can register for several schools, not only your catchment area school
- fill out the application form [here](#) and follow the process in the given dates; you must deliver each application to the school in person, together with the child which will be interviewed; the school will then notify you about acceptance / refusal
- in case of insufficient Czech, postponement of school start may be suggested; if you wish to postpone, you still have to deliver the application form to the catchment school and tick “postponement” in it
- ‘alternative’ primary schools (Montessori, Dalton, Waldorf, private schools) may be more inclined to accept a foreign child as it adds to diversity which is a welcome element
- **An assessment in [PPP](#) can assign support measures such as extra Czech lessons and an adaptation course through the school – in case of hesitant attitude at the school of your choice, be assertive and aware of your rights – the catchment school MUST accept your child.**

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- a list of secondary schools in Brno is available [here](#)
- generally, good knowledge of Czech is needed to pass entrance exams to a Czech secondary school following a Czech curriculum, both public and private (see the list [here](#))
- a secondary school is NOT obliged to accept a child
- private schools may be more inclined to accept a child and offer supportive measures; the level of tuition varies
- in most cases it all depends on convincing the directors about your determination, willingness to work hard with your child and catch up on their knowledge of Czech
- an assessment in [PPP](#) can assign support measures such as extra Czech lessons
- final leaving exam (“Maturita”) is difficult to pass without a very good level of Czech; however, if a child does not plan to attend a Czech university or work in CZ, maturita is not necessary...

CZECH LANGUAGE LEARNING

- [Centre for Foreigners JMK](#) (various levels, free of charge for non-EU citizens, always full)
- [Correct Language Centre](#) (children aged 6-12, adults)
- [Czech Courses](#)
- [Language Hub](#)

OTHER USEFUL LINKS:

www.inkluzivniskola.cz - material for foreign pupils and their teachers

www.zkousky-nanecisto.cz – practise for entrance exams and various levels of schools

EXTRA TUTORING – search for tutors

www.doucovani.cz

www.kvalitni-doucovani.cz

www.tutorings.cz

It is well worth investing in extra lessons of Czech as it strongly increases the likelihood of succeeding in school, in exams and entrance exams. Seek individual tutors, support in the school using financial resources provided by the state as mentioned above.

Try to motivate your child into learning the language. Without their own motivation and understanding of the importance, all learning will be extremely gruelling. You as a parent must be equally motivated and steadfast in supporting your child in this effort.

When you are trying to enrol a child not into 1st grade, but older, it is sometimes advisable to enrol them 1 year lower – then they can focus more on the language while already being more confident in the content of the lessons. That, together with a good improving knowledge of Czech is also a prevention of bullying.

In case of difficulties, contact the PPP, Municipal Department of Education (for KG + Primary Schools) or Regional Department of Education (for Secondary Schools).