



We made a choice. Are we done now?

➔ NOT QUITE.

Have you registered your child? Now it is important to give your child time and space to get used to it. Occasionally walk past the school gates, buy the books he/she needs, go to the school fete, go to a second open day, ...

The more your child feels connected with the school and the chosen subject area, the better for his/her future!

van naar basise**secundair**

**A guide to Support my
child in the
selection process.**



What to do as a parent?

Generally, your child is too young to assess what impact this choice will have on his/her future. It is therefore important that you are there as an adult. Your child is however able to indicate what makes him/her happy or unhappy and what his/her dreams are for the future. Let your child experience and try as many things as possible. You can then help your child to place all these impressions and experiences in a longer-term context. For instance: your son enjoys horses, but does that mean he wants to breed horses for the rest of his life? Children who choose a subject area they are interested in and can cope with and who are enrolled in a school where they feel good, will perform better and be happier.

A lot of studies show that the transition to secondary education can have a significant impact on your child's further career. It is therefore essential to find the right 'cocktail' of a school and a subject area which suit your child on the one hand, and a keen eye for the positive options after the 2nd and/or 3rd grade on the other. Lots can already be achieved at home.

Use these TIPS together with your child and turn him/her into a conscious chooser. Encourage your child to discuss the tips also with the teachers at school, an older brother or sister, an uncle or aunt, ... They know your child in a different way than you do.

Look and listen to your child

You know him/her the longest and the best. Talk with him/her about these questions:

What does your child like doing? Complete the following sentences:

- + My child can occupy him/herself for hours with ...
- + What makes my child happy is ...
- + My child's eyes sparkle when ...
- + My child likes the following challenges: ...

What is your child good at?

Does your child try out new things?

Children can have or can further develop a number of skills.

What is your child's behaviour like?

My child is quiet, exuberant, shy, tired, happy, nervous, angry, anxious, ...

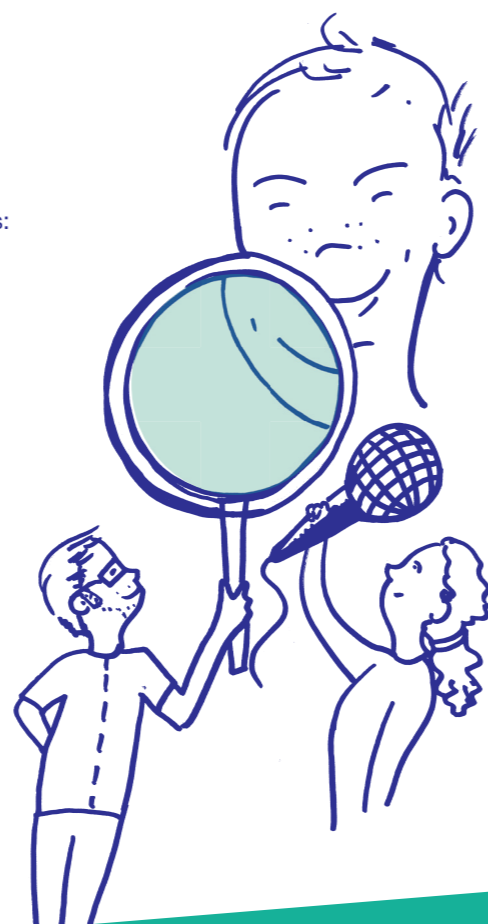
- + when he/she returns from school
- + in the weekend
- + during a party with lots of people
- + when playing with or without friends
- + when completing homework or doing work for school
- + when about to do a test



Start on time

- The registration period starts in February/ March.**
In some cities, such as Antwerp and Gent, you need to use the central registration system around that time. Some schools fill up quickly.
- Open days often only happen after the start of the registration period.** Starting the selection process in the sixth year of primary is therefore too late! Most schools however organise an information session before the registration period. Try to find out when these take place.
- It can take a long time to select a school.** Talking to people about it, looking up information and reflecting on what your child wants take time.
- Make sufficient time** to explore schools and make sure that there is still time afterwards to establish a bond with the new school and subject area.

Albanees



Gather information

- Go on the internet together with your child.**
 - + On www.vanbasisnaarsecundair.be, you will find useful tips, fun videoclips and clear information about secondary education.
 - + On www.onderwijkskiezer.be, you can search for schools and courses based on the interests of your child or test what his/her interests are. Consider what your child's talents are and compare these with the subject areas: what subjects are taught? This is the most reliable, independent website on secondary education.
 - + Check out the websites of schools in your neighbourhood. Look at photos, read reports on school trips, read the pedagogical vision, how they interact with parents, ...
 - + The 1st grade differs from school to school. Do you go for a broad 1st grade, where the choice is deferred temporarily, or do you want a clear ASO (General secondary education)/ TSO (Technical secondary education)/ KSO (Art secondary education)/ BSO (Vocations secondary education)-profile from the start? Look at what a school has to offer and what the possibilities are for the 2nd grade.
 - + You can read school inspection reports online on www.onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/nl/doorlichtingsverslagen
- Visit secondary schools.**
 - + Make a list of what you and your child find important in a school.
 - + Walk past some schools in the neighbourhood when the school is just about to start or has just finished, to get an idea of the atmosphere
 - + Ask your child's primary school which secondary schools they will visit with the class.
 - + Check the internet for other schools which seem interesting, for instance on Onderwijkskiezer.
 - + Start going to open days in the fifth year of primary school, so you have time to consider the options.
- Ask the primary school for an overview of information and open days of secondary schools in the neighbourhood.
- If you do not want to go to each school separately, check with the primary school, if there are fairs where several schools introduce themselves simultaneously.
- Talk to family, acquaintances, friends and professionals.**
 - + via the internet: your child can always ask questions on Awel (www.awel.be). Behind the scene of this chat channel will be a professional, who will help or refer your child.
 - + At clubs and organisations: If your child is a member of a club or an organisation, there will no doubt be people there who can help you by telling you how they experience your child. Or they might know people with professions your child is interested in or pupils already in secondary education.
 - + In the primary school: hundreds of pupils already made the transition from the primary school to secondary education. The class teacher, the care teacher and the CLB (Centre for Pupil Guidance) staff member can give you lots of information about the schools in the neighbourhood, experiences of ex-pupils and of course also about what your child is like in school. It is the task of the primary school to inform you and your child well. Make sure you ask them how and when they plan to do this and what transition work the children will do in the class. Don't be shy to discuss your own questions and doubts with them, as they will not always be aware of what advice you want from them.