

# The Academic Transition Support Program Frequently Asked Questions

## Questions Regarding the Academic Transition Support Program



Q: Why should I use the Academic Transition Support Program?

- The program provides opportunities for parents to touch base with their children's teachers, helping them to understand their children's situations at school, and to determine the most appropriate ways to assist their upcoming academic transitions.
- In addition, the program also invites additional associates from schools to watch over children's school lives, such as school counselors.

Q: Where can I get a copy of the application form?

- The application form is available for pick-up at the following locations.
- Yoko-en
- Child-Rearing Support Center in each ward
- Youth Consultation Center Education Support Teams
- Nurseries, kindergartens, and Kodomo-en(Preschools) in Sagamihara city
- You are now also able to download the form from Sagamihara city's homepage.

## Questions Regarding the Application Process



Q: When is the application deadline?

- The application period usually ends by the end of every January. Make sure to submit your application form before the deadline.
- Note: If you miss the deadline but still want to be enrolled to the program for the February semester, please consult with Yoko-en directly (042-756-8435).

Q: Where should I mail the application form and the Map to?

- The mailing address is as follows:
  - 〒252-0226 Sagamihara-Shi, Chuo-Ku, Yokodai, 3-19-2 Yoko-en.
- Because the files contain personal information of your child, as a precaution, we recommend that you use a method of delivery that leaves a record, such as letter pack, or Kanni Kakitome

Q: I live in an area where you are free to change your school zone and have not yet decided which school to send my child to. In this case, can I still apply for the Academic Transition Support Program?

- On the application form, please indicate that you can change your school zone in the space provided for school's name.

- When you make up your mind on which school to send your child to, please be sure to contact Yoko-en (042-756-8435).

Q: What should I do if I don't want to submit my Map, or would like to cancel my application?

- you have already submitted an application form, your name will be listed in the list at the first (or second) deadline, but it will be listed as "cancelled" in the list at the second (or final) deadline.
- Please contact Yoko-en (042-756-8435) if you wish to cancel or if you have moved to a new address.

Q: Can I drop off my application form and the Map in-person at the Child Development Support Centers?

- Yes, you can. Please talk to the staff at the center when you visit

Q: I am planning to move away from Sagami-hara city. Will I still be able to apply for the Academic Transition Support Program while residing in other cities?

- The Academic Transition Support Program is a service exclusive to residents of Sagami-hara city, and is not available to residents of other cities, wards, towns, or village

Q: Can I apply for the program after my kids have entered their elementary schools?

- The Academic Transition Support Program is a service that aids families and their children before they enter their new schools, and does not accept new applications after the new semester starts.

## Questions regarding the Map



Q: I submitted my application on the first deadline, should I submit the Map as soon as possible as well?

- Not necessarily, but please make sure to submit the Map by the end of February.

Q: Is the entrance briefing session my only chance to submit the Map to my elementary school?

- You can submit the Map to your school whenever you like by calling them in advance.
- When submitting your Map to Yoko-en, please bring it to our office between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays.



Q: Should I submit a copy of the Map to other facilities, such as the Youth Consultation Centre and kids' clubs?

- Elementary schools share information with the Youth Consultation Centre, but not with kids'

clubs. If you would like to provide information to kids' clubs as well, please contact them directly.

Q: Am I allowed to make changes on the Map once I submitted them?

- Yes. Please submit your Map with updated information to your school if you would like to make changes. Submitting a copy to Yoko-en is recommended but not required.

Q: My kid is behaving differently now, what should I do with the Map?

- If your kid starts behaving differently after entering the new school, please consult with teachers or staffs from the school directly first.

Q: I don't know how to write the Map. Can I ask Yoko-en for help?

- Please consult directly with teachers from your kid's kindergarten or daycare. At Yoko-en, we provide training for teachers at kindergartens and daycares to help writing the Maps, so please consult with them.

Q: Can I ask teachers at kindergartens and nurseries to write the Map for me?

- Yes, you can. Please consult with your kid's teachers first.

Q: I've wrote my Map for school counselling; do I have to write another one for the Academic Transition Support Program as well?

- School counselling and the Academic Transition Support Program share the same Map. If you have already wrote a Map for one of them, just send a copy to the other.

### Questions regarding School Counselling and Education Counselling



Q: Is education counseling a good place to ask about what my kid's future school is like?

- Educational counseling is a meeting to discuss problems your kid has encountered at school with a school teacher or school counselor.

Q: I heard that I must call the school in advance to make appointments for education counselling sessions. What exactly should I say when I call?

- Education counselling is only available after February. When you call, just say `my name is XX. I applied for the Academic Transition Support Program. My kid will be attending your school starting from this year, and I would like to have a meeting with you.`

Q: Regarding to school counseling (where we discuss which school to send our kids to), can we still consult with our schools through the Youth Consultation Centre education support team even after our kids have entered their elementary school?

- Please consult directly with your schools after your kids have entered elementary schools.

## Other Questions

Q: How many people apply for the Academic Transition Support Program every year?

- The number of applicants is about 500 every year. Most elementary schools in the city have applicants. There are almost no kindergartens or nurseries in the city that do not have applicants.

Q: Please teach me again about the difference between the Academic Transition Support Program and school counseling.

- School counseling is where you discuss which school to send your kid to with a counsellor. The Academic Transition Support Program is a service that provides assistances to children's school transition from kindergartens or daycares to elementary schools.