

Admission Blues

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As with any other parent, the day my child turned vertically mobile, I found myself competing in the race to achieve that 'right place' for him that will promise to cater to all his educational and developmental needs in the best possible manner. Yes, I wanted the best for him and so started my eternal search for good schools and their admission line ups. Sifting through scores of online application forms, dreading the lady at the reception informing of eternally long waiting lists and wondering what the schools would want to test in a

child; I finally found myself completely immersed in this saga of admissions! But what seems like an epic battle to achieve the best shouldn't be the cause for unnecessary worry and tension. Below is a guideline of how you need to understand and deal with the 'admission blues'.

THE SCHOOL'S PERSPECTIVE

- The school faces challenges in terms of selecting and admitting the right candidates from a plethora of applications for a fixed number of seats.
 - They have the tedious task of gathering and recording candidate information so as to plan for and meet their individual needs at the time of assessment and future.
 - Schools also provide stress free support during interview processes by setting up informal testing procedures particularly for elementary school children wherein the focal point of assessment is language, communication, social behaviour, basic literacy skills and creativity.

PARENTAL INTERVENTION

Parental support and encouragement is vital for students seeking admission in a new school, particularly due to the high stress levels related to admission tests. Here are some tips that may be incorporated into the child's learning regime:

- What goes on around a child is of immediate concern to him or her. Try to stimulate this curiosity about their environment so as to further develop their

REASONS FOR ANXIETY IN STUDENTS:

- ✗ To get admitted in the most acclaimed/famous institution as a mark of prestige, peer pressure, and also sometimes parental pressure.
- ✗ Stress due to the looming uncertainty following admission rejection.
- ✗ Fear of interviews and tests.

interest and knowledge. Also make the child active and alert to things happening to and around them.

- Never curb your child's urge to know new things. This is important because if replied satisfactorily, their desire to enquire and investigate will get a boost. Avoiding answering or scolding when they persist in their enquiries, diminishes the child's interest.
- Provide the child with all the possible opportunities to develop their creativity.
- Help them express their thoughts and feelings properly.
- Developing good habits and social attitudes and manners.
- Try to teach the child to pick up good habits of maintaining physical cleanliness, awareness of time, respecting the elders, sharing things, socialising with other children etc.

For a child groomed and grown in such an atmosphere, admission interviews should not be a threat.

It is extremely imperative to acknowledge that not everyone gets admitted to their school of choice. The reasons can be many, and more often than not it's no pointer to the child's incompetency. Parental role in handling admission rejection blues, particularly in older children is very important.

As smart parents of smart kids we know that the world is full of newer opportunities and that 'We regret to inform you...' does not form the end of our child's academic dream and success 🌟

