

To practical education or secondary school with special help

Information for parents

Your child is in its last year of the primary school. Next year it will be a pupil at the secondary level. You have had a talk with the headmaster or teacher of the primary school in which you were informed that it might be better for your child to have extra help in the secondary education. That is why the primary school has nominated your child for an extra test. In the paper you will find more information about the extra test.

What is practical education?

For some pupils normal secondary education is too difficult. These pupils can better go to the practical education, where the groups are smaller and the children get more attention. This form of education leads to work and in some cases to a qualification at the ROC on the AKA level. These schools work closely with various companies, so the children can also get practical training. The school teaches pupils what is needed to find and keep a job. In some cases children can also continue education at a secondary school when the improvement in learning is significant.

What is secondary education (*vmbo*) with extra help (*lwoo*)?

The *VMBO* with *LWOO* is meant for pupils that can obtain a certificate but need extra help to achieve that. Sometimes the extra help is for a limited time (1 or 2 years) but it can also be for a period of 4 or 5 years.

Schools with *LWOO* usually choose for smaller groups (16-20 pupils). But there are also other possibilities, like help with homework, special training to improve learning or behaviour. This help can be provided during the school hours, but also after school. Every school has its own system.

Not all secondary schools have *LWOO*. If your child has the advice to go to a school with *LWOO* it is wise to select the correct school. Your primary school can advise you with the choice.

Why is the extra test necessary?

To establish whether your child has the right to have the special help the school needs more information. First the primary school will do some additional tests and later the test agency will do the final testing. After all the tests have finished the test agency will formulate an advice what applies for your child. The advice will be handed to the primary school. The school will present the results to you.

What does the test consist of?

In the tests three things will be examined:

1. The educational level: is your child on the level that is applicable for the group?
2. The behaviour: how does your child behave in school?
3. The intelligence: what is the IQ of your child?

The school examines the first two subjects. They will also determine whether your child has difficulty in learning. The third item will be tested by the agency. This will predict on what level of education your child might develop itself. The test will result in an advice for practical education, *VMBO* with *LWOO*, or regular education.

The timetable:

There are 6 steps this year:

1. June / September: the primary school asks your permission to do the extra tests
2. September: the primary school does the extra tests: educational level and behaviour
3. October or November: The test agency will do the intelligence test
4. December or January: You will receive the results
5. January: The primary school hands the school advice to you; with the form you can go to a secondary school to apply your child
6. January and February: you have to inscribe your child at the secondary school before March 1st and hand the advice of the primary school to the secondary school

Any questions?

For more information about this item you can always ask your primary school.

The tests are coordinated by *KOERS VO*, the partnership of almost all secondary schools in the Rotterdam area.

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