Kindergarten Visit and Cost Checklist

Take this with you on every kindergarten tour in Phuket.

On the visit

- [ ] How many children are in each class, and how many adults?
- [ ] What qualifications do the teachers have?
- [ ] What does a normal day look like, including nap time?
- [ ] What meals and snacks are provided, and how are allergies handled?
- [ ] What happens if my child is unwell during the day?
- [ ] Which languages are spoken in class?
- [ ] Is there shaded outdoor space?
- [ ] How do you help new children settle in?
- [ ] What are the pick-up times, and is after-school care available?

The real cost

Ask about each one and write the amount next to it.

- [ ] Tuition, and is it charged per month, term or year? _____
- [ ] Registration or entrance fee _____
- [ ] Deposit, and is it refundable? _____
- [ ] Materials fee _____
- [ ] Is VAT included? _____
- [ ] Meals _____
- [ ] Uniform _____
- [ ] Higher rate for short stays? _____
- [ ] Sibling discount _____
- [ ] Notice period and refund policy _____

Questions to ask yourself

1. How far is it from where you'll live, and how long is the drive at rush hour or in heavy rain?
2. Does the school day fit your working hours? Some finish at 15:00, and after-school care costs extra.
3. Do you need full days, half days, or only a few days a week?
4. What's the real total once you add registration, deposits, materials, VAT and meals?
5. Is that within your budget, and could you keep paying it for several years?
6. How many children will you be paying for, and is there a sibling discount?
7. How long are you staying? Short-term contracts often cost more per month than annual ones.
8. Are you planning to move back, or on, at some point? Which school system will they go into next?
9. Which languages do you want them to learn in, and do you want support for their home language?
10. If you choose Montessori or a bilingual setting, how easy will the move into a mainstream primary be later?
11. Does your child do better in a small, close setting or a bigger, busier one?

My notes

Fees change every year, so always confirm with the school before you commit.

Not sure which kindergarten fits your family? Book a consultation with Phuket to the Face. The first ten minutes are free.

phukettotheface.com/consultation