

## **SCHOOLING AND DAYCARE**

Listed below are the most popular options for schooling and daycare in Zagreb, with some of the basic information to help you in your search. Of course, you will need to visit the school, meet the staff and decide what's best for you and your child. This is just to point you in the right direction.

### **SCHOOLS**

#### **English-Speaking Options**

There is nowhere other than the American School in Zagreb that is truly international and recognized as such. For children aged 2-6 there are several options, but curricula vary so it is always best to visit the school and talk to other parents about their experience.

#### **American International School of Zagreb (AISZ)**

Website: [www.aisz.hr](http://www.aisz.hr)

AISZ accepts children from Junior Kindergarten (must be age of 4 by October 1 of the year of entrance) through to high school (K-12). The school is currently located in a residential neighbourhood about 10 minutes from the city centre to the north. Enrolment has increased in the last few years and AISZ is looking for a new location in Zagreb. Facilities include 12 classrooms, a library, two computer laboratories, an art room, workrooms, a cafeteria and a multi-purpose room, together with a playing field, a playground, an outdoor basketball court and a gym. The academic year usually begins in the last week of August and ends in mid June.

The primary curriculum is based on the American public school system and the International Baccalaureate is used in the High School. Instruction is in English. Those students with limited English are offered instruction in English as a Second Language. There is no special provision for pupils with severe problems, but a resource teacher is employed to assist children in the regular classroom who have minor difficulties. The foreign language programme starts in Senior Kindergarten and includes German and French classes. Croatian is not taught at the school, except as an after-school activity. The children take the WJAP standardised test annually. Students in the High School take PSATs and SATs. The school fees do not include transportation to and from school.

#### **Croatian-Speaking Options (with English as a second language)**

#### **Matija Gubec (Ages 7-15)**

#### **Primary State School Gimnazija and International Baccalaureate**

Website: <http://www.os-mgubec.hr/>

This school follows both a general Croatian curriculum and a separate International Baccalaureate (IB) programme, and is officially accredited and licensed by the IB organisation in Geneva, Switzerland (for the equivalent of grades 6-8).

There is no entrance examination, but international pupils are expected to speak English. Croatian as a foreign language is compulsory. Class size in the IB group is currently around 20 pupils. If numbers are low, different grades may be combined into one class.

For the IB classes, the school day starts at 08:15 and finishes at 14:00.

For the Croatian curriculum, the school day is divided into two different shifts and pupils alternate between them each week. There is a possibility of learning German and French in the 3<sup>rd</sup> term.

This school prepares pupils for the higher IB grades in XV Gimnazija Mioc (see below).

### **XV Gimnazija Mioc – State School Gimnazija and International Baccalaureat (from age 15)**

Website: [www.mioc.hr](http://www.mioc.hr)

International Baccalaureate (IB) programme, officially accredited and licensed as above. There are two programmes offered: Middle Year Programme (IBMYP), designed for students in the first and second year of High School, and Diploma Programme (IBDIP) for students in the third and fourth year of High School. The working language is English, but every pupil has the opportunity to study his native or best language, literature and culture. The main focus is in the areas of Maths and Science. Each pupil is required to have a good knowledge of English and a high degree of academic and social independence and versatility. The application process includes an entrance exam (Maths, English and General Knowledge for grades 9 & 10, with an additional Literature essay for grade 11) and an interview.

### **Kreativan Razvoj (Creative Development) (Ages 4-13)**

#### **Private School**

Website: <http://www.kreativan-razvoj.hr/>

Lessons are in Croatian, but there are English classes every day. The school follows a Croatian curriculum and has no international accreditation. Elective activities are offered in judo, basketball, table tennis, art, music, drama and ballet, German, Italian and Chinese.

### **French-Speaking Options**

#### **Ecole Française de Zagreb**

#### **(French School of Zagreb) (Ages 3-10)**

Website: [www.ecole.zagreb.free.fr](http://www.ecole.zagreb.free.fr)

This well organised school takes children from ages 3-10.

In the Maternelle (3-6 yrs), dancing lessons are offered (not included in the school fee). Throughout the year many activities are arranged with the Alliance Française. In December, the Maternelle and Primary Schools organise a Christmas show together. No basic knowledge of French is required. The school day is flexible, but generally runs from 08:30 to 16:00. Children have their lunch and a nap on the premises.

The Primary School curriculum is based on and accredited by the French public school system. Children of all nationalities are welcome, but a basic knowledge of French is required. Preparation is offered to C.P. (Cours Préparatoire), CE1 (Cours Elementaire), CE2, CM1 (Cours Moyen), CM2. From the age of 11, courses by

correspondence (system CNED) are also available in small classes, around 8-10 students. The school day is flexible, but generally runs from 08:30 to 15:30.

For both sections of the school, lunch and snacks are not included in fees. Morning and afternoon snacks are provided in turn by the parents. In June, shortly before the end of term, a week at the seaside is organised. The whole school, including those in the Maternelle, goes to the coast under the supervision of the teachers and several assistants. The cost is not included in the school fee.

### **German-Speaking Options**

#### **Die Deutsche Internationale Schule in Zagreb**

(Ages 3-8)

Website: [www.deutscheschule.hr](http://www.deutscheschule.hr)

The School opened in September 2004. It is run by a Schulverein and is „Begegnungsschule“, i.e. its aim is to bring together children from all nationalities and the School caters for both the local and the international community.

The School follows a curriculum based on that of Baden Wurttemberg and, at the moment, takes children aged from 3-8 in the Kindergarten, Vorschule and Grundschule, Grades 1 and 2. They expect to offer Grade 3 and 4 from September 2005, and then to extend classes by one a year. Classes are taught in German. Children whose first language is not German will be offered a language programme „German for Foreigners“. English is taught from first grade. The school provides a special music programme for beginners, as well as sports classes for young children. School starts at 08:30 and ends at 15:00. The gates open at 07:30 and a special daycare programme for the children is offered until 17:00.

Please check the website for the most up to date information on enrolment, fees and location. There are plans to move from Pantovčak and to share a building with a French School of Zagreb.

### **KINDERGARTENS/PLAYSCHOOLS AND DAY-CARE CENTRES**

#### **Little Star (Ages 3-7)**

##### **Anglo-American Pre-School run by the Croatian American Society**

Website: [www.cas.hr](http://www.cas.hr)

An international and multicultural school, with English as the primary language. Children must be toilet trained. Class size is limited to a maximum of ten. The school day runs from 08:15 to 13:00.

#### **Ideja Pre-School (Ages 2-6)**

A multicultural playschool, with English as the primary language. Toilet training is not compulsory.

The school day runs from 08:30 to 13:30, afternoon workshops are from 13:30 to 14:15. There are two classes (toddlers and pre-schoolers) with 10 children per class. Snacks and refreshments are included in the fees. The curriculum covers all the main areas of creative development. The school organizes outings and events and encourages teacher-child and teacher-parent interactions. Recommended.

### **English Speaking Playschool of Zagreb (Ages 3-6)**

Multicultural playschool with English as the primary language.

### **The Learning Tree International Playschool (Ages 2-6)**

Website: [www.tltplayschool.com](http://www.tltplayschool.com)

An international playschool, run by a US-trained child psychologist. The school's philosophy is centred around teaching in multi-age groups in open space classrooms. It also offers after-school activities and transportation. Tuition is in English only.

### **Ecole Française de Zagreb – French School of Zagreb**

**Ecole Maternelle (Nursery and Pre-school, ages 3-6)**

### **English Play School**

Popular playschool in the centre of town, open from 09:00 to 13:00 between September and June. The groups are small (10 children) with plenty of individual attention. All tuition is in English; the teachers are native English and Croatian. There are music and dance lessons twice a week and regular visits to the park and children's theatre. Children are taught basic computer skills.

### **Krijesnice**

Website: <http://www.vrtic-krijesnice.hr/>

Day-care centre. Some English spoken.

### **Montessori School Srčeško**

Website: [www.srceko.com](http://www.srceko.com)

An international programme in English and Croatian, with an introduction to Spanish and German for 5-6 years old. Toilet training is not compulsory. The school is open from 08:00 to 17:00, with hours varying per group. Class size is between 15-20 children and both half and full day options are available. Breakfast, warm lunch and snack included in the fees. The curriculum is based on the Montessori method, where children are allowed extensive freedom to explore and learn. There are five basic areas of the curriculum: The Practical Life, The Sensorial Area, Language, Mathematics and Cultural Subjects. Established in 1996. The school arranges outings to the theatre, zoo, etc., and there is an optional summer school week at Crikvenica on the coast. Recommended.

### **Različak**

Website: <http://www.razlicak.hr/index.php>

Day-care provision, with six locations throughout Zagreb. The hours are generally from 07:00, but vary by location. German and English are spoken in the school at Petrinjska.

### **Tatjana Marinić (Ages 1-6)**

Website: <http://www.vrtic-tatjanemarinic.hr/hr/o-nama/>

Day-care centre accepting Croatian children (and non-native speakers from 4 years). Open from 07:30 – 17:00. This centre runs English and German-based programmes (German from age 4). Class size max 20 in these groups. Children are served breakfast, warm lunch and a snack. Recommended.