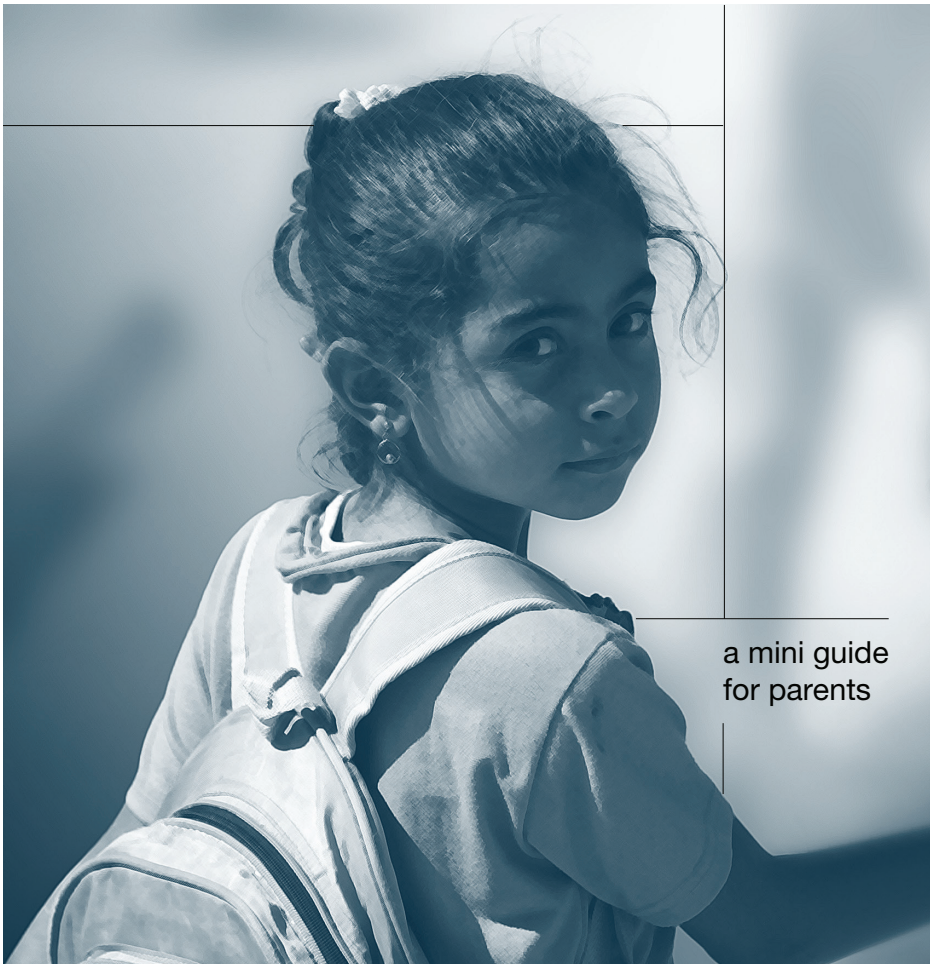


How does education *help* *newly arrived children?*



a mini guide
for parents

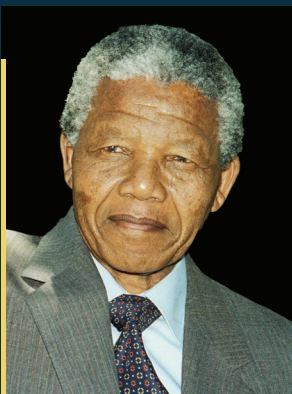
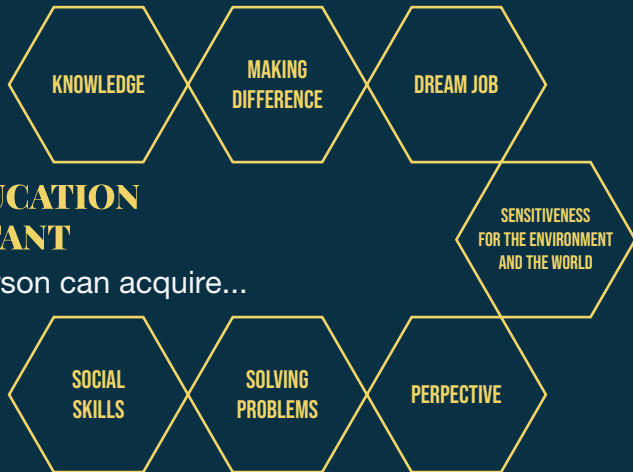
What is education and why is it so important for children?

Education means the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. Educational methods include teaching, training, storytelling, discussion and directed research.

Education gives one a knowledge of the world around them, it helps to develop a perspective on life and teaches one to build opinions and have points of view on things in life. Education enables one to interpret things and make sense of the world. Every child and adult should have access to education and to the possibilities and opportunities it provides.

WHY IS EDUCATION SO IMPORTANT

Because a person can acquire...



“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.”

NELSON MANDELA

What is the system of education in Turkey?

Turkish Education System is divided into three stages as 12-year compulsory education where the language of instruction is Turkish in public schools. The first stage is a 4-year primary school (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade), the second stage is a 4-year secondary school (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade) and the third stage is a 4-year high school (9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade). Students who complete these stages successfully are awarded a high school diploma.

Primary School: The student who is 66 months old and above will receive education in primary school. During the first 4 years, students will be trained with a program that is not much difficult.

Secondary School: The purpose of secondary school is to provide education according to the skills of student or skills of students' occupational ability. For this reason, elective courses are provided. Some of these elective courses are the culture of religion and knowledge of ethics, grammar, foreign language, science, art, sports and social sciences.

High School: The transition to high school will be determined by the high school entrance exam to be held at the end of the 8th grade which means that it will be at the end of secondary school. The exam consists of lessons which are seen in secondary school. In Turkey, high school can be divided into vocational and technical Anatolian high school, science high school, Anatolian high school and social science high school.

Schools generally start between 08:30-09:00 and end between 15:00-15:30 for schools working regularly, with 40 minutes classes and at least 15 minutes breaks. For schools working as two shifts, classes of students coming in the morning generally start between 07:00-07:30 and end between 12:30-13:00. For the students coming in the afternoon classes start between 12:40-13:10 and end between 17:40-18:10. The school hours change from school to school so you can learn the exact hours from the nearest public school when registering your children.

The sketch of the academic calendar for primary, secondary and high school students are as follows:

- First week of September, orientation period for 1st, 5th and 9th grades
- Second week of September, fall semester begins
- One week break on November
- Second week of January, fall semester ends
- Semester break of two weeks
- First week of February, spring semester begins
- One week break on April
- Second week of June, spring semester ends, 11 weeks of summer break begins after the spring semester.

National Holidays in Turkey: January 1 New Year's Day • April 23 National Sovereignty & Children's Day • May 1 Labor and Solidarity Day • May 19 Atatürk Commemoration, Youth & Sports Day • Ramadan Feast Eve (Half Day) • Eid Ramadan (3 days) • July 15 Democracy & National Unity Day • Qurban Feast Eve (Half Day) • Eid Qurban (4 days) • August 30 Victory Day • October 28-29 Republic Day

Rights and responsibilities of newly arrived children in education

Turkish constitution guarantees the right to education for everyone including refugee children as of 2016. Therefore, no one can be deprived of the right to education, and everyone can benefit from it without discrimination. Education is carried out under the control of the state by using modern and scientific methods. According to the European Convention on human rights, nobody's right to education can be prevented, therefore, all countries across Europe are obliged to provide access to education. In Turkey, the education system is free of charge, i.e. there is no annual or semi-annual fee that is needed to be paid. Also, attending school regularly is compulsory for students and absence is not well-received. Students need to attend classes regularly in order to successfully complete their schools. Absence will lead to failure and failure will consequent to repeating the year of their grades so attendance is a non-negotiable must which should be monitored by the parents and instructors of the children.

Guide for Registration:

- Each family member should get a Temporary Protection ID starting with 99 from The Directorate General of Migration Management. Also each family needs to have a residency permit and an address registered in the system MERNIS related to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Parents are eligible to register their children to school even though they do not have an ID but in that case these children will have a "guest student" status. Parents may change this status to a "regular student" by introducing the ID of their child as soon as they get it.
- To register children to schools, families can go to the nearest public school to their registered address. Registration procedures are determined by the District Education Commission established within the Provincial Directorate of National Education in each province. To find the nearest public school you can use the website of the Ministry of National Education (MEB): <http://www.meb.gov.tr> and click to Baęlantılar/Okul Web Siteleri (<http://www.meb.gov.tr/baglantilar/okullar/index.php>) or you can use the phone number 444 0 632 to contact MEB and get the information you need.

How can parents support their children?

Education is closely linked with refugee families' integration. The Migration Policy Institute stated, "Schools have served as critical engines of integration, enabling children to master the core curriculum and both parents and children to acquire language and civics skills." Parents should remember that it is compulsory for their children to attend school. First of all refugee parents should support their children's education by following given above "guide for registration". Secondly, school visiting is an important event for following students' activities in school. In Turkey depending on school and teachers, at least once a semester parent's visitation is required.



What are the support programs for newly arrived families and their children?

- After enrolling your children to school you can apply to Kizilay for the CCTE (the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education) program. This program enables refugee families to get cash support if their children attend school regularly (at least %80 in a month). For more information you can check the website <https://www.unicef.org/turkey/şartlı-eğitim-yardımları-programı-şey> or you can call 168.
- Project Hope was a study carried out as a part of a program for Syrian refugee children in Turkey, who face serious language and mental health barriers to educational success. The researchers used a carefully designed set of instructional interventions to determine how best to overcome these barriers. These included Cerego, an adaptive learning application; Minecraft, the popular building game; and other games to teach skills like coding. A total of 147 children were assigned to either the intervention or control group. Of all the interventions, Cerego was rated by participants as the most enjoyable and most effective. Post-intervention Turkish tests confirmed the effectiveness of Cerego which resulted in an improved understanding of Turkish, a crucial factor in the children's educational future, especially integration into local schools.
- Together with the Ministry of Family, labor and social services, it works to improve child protection services. It provides psychosocial support to children exposed to war by establishing “Child-friendly areas” in and outside the camps. It provides training to adolescents and young people to take positive roles in their communities. Also it meets basic needs such as vaccination, food, school supplies and clothing support.

How can ULM Project help newly arrived children?

We believe every single child can make a big difference in future, and we want them to believe their potentials. The aim of the Universal Language of Mathematics Project (ULM) is not only supporting newly arrived children academically, but also increasing their motivation for success in their school lives. We know that most of the students finds Mathematics the most difficult subject, especially when it is learnt in another language. We want to change this belief. This project will show them every student can do mathematics. We eliminated the language barrier for them, and prepared mathematic books with less words and more fun. We used colors, pictures, and shapes to teach them mathematics in the same level as native students in their classes. We also gave instructions of the questions in Turkish, English and Arabic. So, parents can easily help their children while their learning journey. We believe that the ULM Project will make this journey motivating and fun for newly arrived children.

www.ulmproject.com

**ULM
PROJECT**



The Universal Language of Mathematics