

Regardless of race, social status every child^{has} ^{the} right to equal education

Rights of EM children
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I want to talk about KG education for ethnic minority children. I welcome the new Education Bureau guidelines to kindergartens on admission arrangement' which states the need to provide bilingual admission related documents and interview arrangements. But still there are ethnic minority parents who face discrimination during admissions due to language barrier. They are often asked questions such as "do you know this is a Chinese school?" or "we don't accept you children". It is not enough to only encourage parents to report such incidents to the EDB; but active **monitoring** should be in place to see if KGs are following the guidelines. Govt should step up their efforts to facilitate early integration of ethnic minority children into the mainstream system.

This week on 2 Nov Hong Kong Unison held a press conference in which they released the research report **"Accountability of Kindergarten Education to the Ethnic Minority Community Research"** research on 151 QR reports from 3 districts to investigate what kind of information NCS parents missed from Chinese only QR reports and to assess if the information provided in the reports reflected performance of kindergartens on the teaching and learning for ethnic minority children and parents. The research shows that the current Education Bureau (EDB) kindergarten Quality Assurance Framework fails to provide accountability to non-Chinese speaking (NCS) parents. The EDB should provide English version of QR reports to ensure equal access of information and to enhance accountability to NCS parents. Parameters in the new Performance Indicators (PIs) include kindergartens' performance in catering the needs of NCS parents and children. The EDB review team should take note of such parameters, monitor and reflect in the QR reports the performance of kindergartens that admit NCS children. They should make recommendations once they observe malpractices in kindergartens and/or breaches to the Curriculum and Administration Guides; such as over-concentration of NCS students which is unfavorable to early integration. The school report of NSC grants under the Free Quality Kindergarten Education Scheme should be uploaded to the school website every year to allow public access and monitoring, and hence to ensure accountability.