

# How to Approach AEIS Primary Preparation for Real Results

## Getting the Foundation Right

Every year, families from across the region look into the Admissions Exercise for International Students, better known as the AEIS. For parents of primary-level children, the process can feel both urgent and unfamiliar. You are not just helping your child pass a test. You are trying to fit them into a school system that uses a different language of instruction, a different curriculum rhythm, and a different set of classroom expectations. That is where thoughtful **aeis primary preparation** comes into play. It is not about drilling endless worksheets or memorising answers. It is about building the actual English and mathematics skills a child needs to walk into a Singapore primary school classroom and keep up from day one.

The mistake many families make is treating the AEIS as just another exam. In reality, the assessment measures whether a child can cope with the mainstream curriculum, not just answer multiple-choice questions. A child who has memorised vocabulary lists but cannot follow a teacher's instructions in English will struggle. A child who can solve maths problems but cannot read the word problem will also struggle. Good preparation addresses both the content and the language of learning. [aeis primary preparation](#)

## Understanding the Test Structure

The AEIS for primary levels typically covers English and mathematics. The English paper tests grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing. The mathematics paper tests problem-solving and numeracy, but the questions are phrased in English. That second part is where many children hit a wall. They know the maths, but they cannot decode the question. A strong **aeis primary preparation** programme spends time teaching children how to read maths questions carefully, pick out the key numbers and operations, and translate the English into a calculation they can do.

There is also the oral interview component, which some families overlook. The interview is not a formal test for every level, but the school placement process can include a conversation to gauge the child's spoken English and comfort level. Preparation should include speaking practice, not just pen-and-paper work. A child who can talk about their interests, describe a picture, or answer simple questions about themselves will make a much better impression.

## The Language Gap Is Real

I have worked with children who scored well on practice tests at home but froze on test day because they could not understand the invigilator's instructions. The gap between knowing English as a subject and using English as a language for learning is wider than most parents realise. In a typical Singapore primary classroom, teachers give instructions, explain concepts, and ask questions in English throughout the day. The AEIS is the gatekeeper for that environment. If a child cannot understand directions like "read the passage and answer the questions in full sentences," they will lose marks even if they know the content.

One practical approach is to immerse the child in English for several months before the test. That means reading English storybooks, watching English cartoons or educational videos, and having simple conversations in English at home. It does not have to be perfect. The goal is fluency and comfort, not accent or grammar perfection. Children learn language fastest when they are using it for real purposes, not just drilling exercises.

## Maths Is Not Just Numbers

The mathematics paper for primary AEIS is largely word-problem based. A child might know that 25 plus 17 equals 42, but if the question says "Ali has 25 marbles. He finds 17 more marbles. How many marbles does Ali have now?" the child needs to recognise the phrase "finds 17 more" as an addition. That sounds simple, but for a child who is still learning English, it is a double cognitive load. They have to decode the language and then do the calculation.

Good preparation builds both skills together. For example, a child might practise reading a maths problem aloud, underlining the numbers, circling the operation words like "more," "less," "altogether," or "left," and then solving. Over time, this becomes automatic. The child stops translating and starts thinking directly in English. That is the real goal of **aeis primary preparation**: to make English the language of thinking, not just the language of the test.

## Finding the Right Support

Not all preparation programmes are equal. Some focus heavily on test-taking tricks and shortcuts. Others drill endless grammar exercises. The best programmes treat the AEIS as a diagnostic tool. They identify where a child's English and maths skills are weak and build them up systematically. Look for a programme that uses actual Singapore primary school materials, not generic worksheets. The vocabulary, sentence structures, and problem types in the AEIS come from the local curriculum. Practising with materials that match that curriculum gives a child a real advantage.

Another factor is the teacher. A teacher who understands the Singapore education system and has experience with international students is invaluable. They can explain why certain answers are wrong, not just which answer is right. They can also spot patterns in a child's mistakes that

point to deeper language gaps. For example, a child who consistently misses questions about time or money might not know the English words for minutes, hours, dollars, or cents. That is a language gap, not a maths gap.

## Building Confidence Alongside Skills

Test day is stressful for any child, especially one who is already adapting to a new country and language. Confidence matters. A child who believes they can handle the test will stay calm, read carefully, and attempt every question. A child who is anxious will rush, skip steps, or give up. Preparation should include timed practice sessions that mimic the real test conditions. The child should know how much time they have for each section, what to do if they finish early, and how to check their work.

One simple but effective technique is to teach the child to breathe and refocus if they feel stuck. If a question seems impossible, they can skip it and come back. That sounds basic, but many children freeze and waste time on one hard question instead of moving on. Role-playing the test scenario at home can help. Have the child sit at a desk with a timer, work through a practice paper, and then review the answers together. The more familiar the format feels, the less intimidating it will be on the actual day.

## What Happens After the Test

A child who passes the AEIS is placed in a school based on their score, age, and available vacancies. That placement is not permanent. Many children transfer to a different school after a year or two as their English improves and their academic profile becomes clearer. The AEIS is just the entry point. The real work begins in the classroom. A child who enters with solid English and maths skills will adapt faster, make friends more easily, and build the confidence that carries them through the rest of their school years.

For families who are serious about this move, the investment in preparation pays off many times over. It reduces the stress of the transition, shortens the adjustment period, and gives the child a fighting chance from the very first day. That is why I always tell parents to think of **aeis primary preparation** not as a crash course, but as a bridge. It connects where the child is now to where they need to be. And like any good bridge, it needs to be built on a solid foundation, not just painted to look good.

## Practical Steps You Can Take Today

If your child is preparing for the AEIS at the primary level, here are three things you can start doing right away. First, read with them every day in English. Choose books that are slightly above their current level but still interesting. Talk about the story, ask questions, and let them

ask questions too. Second, practise maths word problems from Singapore primary school workbooks. The more exposure they have to the local style of questioning, the more automatic their responses will become. Third, have simple conversations in English during everyday activities. Talk about what you see at the market, what the weather is like, or what they want to eat for dinner. The goal is to make English a natural part of their day, not a chore.

These steps do not require a tutor or a special programme. They just require consistency and patience. Every child learns at their own pace, and the best preparation respects that. With the right approach, your child can enter the AEIS feeling ready, not overwhelmed. And that confidence will carry them far beyond the test itself.