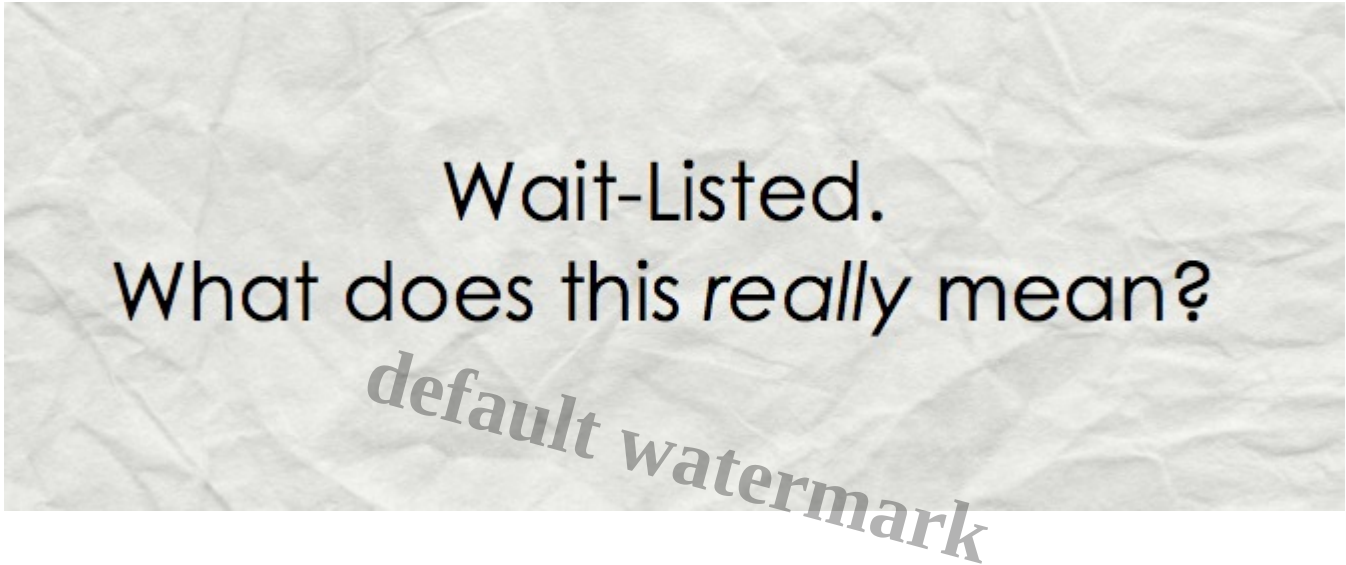


A Few Tips If Your Child Is Wait-Listed (updated)

Description



Iâ€™m updating this previous post since Iâ€™ve been hearing that this year (2016-17) is one of the most competitive for L.A. private elementary school admissions. That probably means more kids will end up on wait-lists than in a less competitive year. A frequently asked question is, **â€œDoes a wait-list notification really mean NO or does it actually mean my child has been put on a wait-list?â€**

Some schools definitely use a wait-list notification as a polite way to say â€œnoâ€ to an applicant. Itâ€™s hard to know which schools do this, but all kinds of rumors abound on this topic. Since youâ€™ll never really know, the best approach if youâ€™re interested in a school that has wait-listed your child is to consider a few factors. First, there are some schools that are very popular, very small and/or have their own preschool and therefore have a very high acceptance rate. In this situation, the school may or may not accept anyone off the wait-list. And, siblings and legacies at certain schools fill up spaces, making it impossible for the school to accept wait-listed kids. These schools arenâ€™t the majority. I can think of 5 or so off the top of my head (including secondary schools). Most private schools in L.A. do accept kids from their wait-lists every year. Just talk to parents at schools and youâ€™ll find this to be true. Iâ€™ve gotten wait-list letters so I know what it is like. Not the news you want!

Most likely, itâ€™s been a long few months. Goodness knows you really want the private elementary school application process to end. But, if your child is wait-listed at a school you really like, youâ€™ll need to continue with the process.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Call or email the admissions director immediately. Tell him or her youâ€™re still very hopeful a spot will open up. Remind him/her how much you love the school. Let the admissions director

know the school is your top choice and youâ€™ll enroll your child if they offer you a spot. You are ready to write the deposit check!

- Have your friends or parents you know at the school contact the admissions director and reiterate the same message: youâ€™ll enroll your child if offered a spot.
- Donâ€™t be alarmed if you donâ€™t hear from the admissions director. Thereâ€™s a lot going on behind the scenes at the school and they are waiting to know how many parents (if any) will decline their offer and therefore create spaces for wait-listed families.
- Donâ€™t keep calling or emailing the school! You donâ€™t want to appear panicked or over-involved, even if thatâ€™s how you feel.
- Be very patient. Families are admitted from wait-lists right away and in the summer months.
- Schools DO offer wait-listed families admissions! We know lots of families at many top schools who were initially wait-listed.
- If the admissions director tells you to accept a spot elsewhere, take that as a hint that your child probably wonâ€™t get in.
- If you have a â€œback-upâ€• school, donâ€™t give up that option just because your child is wait-listed at another school. A lot of parents will put a deposit on their 2nd choice school, but continue to keep in contact with their 1st choice school where they were wait-listed.
- Keep your cool and donâ€™t have an attitude or seem resentful. Being wait-listed is part of the process and it can end up working out for your child.
- Patience and persistence can pay offâ€¦weâ€™ve seen it many times.

Good luck! Christina

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