

We moved to Cambridge on Aug 14 in 2007 and submitted our application the last week of August, indicating our three choices for schools within walking distance to our home. The Family Resource Center staff came right out of the office with our assignment: we were mandatorily assigned to Kennedy Longfellow which was across town and meant that our four-year-old would have to take a bus to and from school every day (really, our dreamy four year old was expected to know which stop to get out at, and find her way to her classroom by herself?!) Needless to say, my husband and I were not happy about it. We went straight to the school to see what it was like. Some of the teachers were in the building getting ready for the start of classes. The receptionist called down to the kindergarten classes and found one of the teachers and his assistant (Richard Kelly and Ms. Maria) who were willing to talk with us. They were the NICEST people! They totally knew how to put our minds at ease, answering all of our questions, listening to our concerns. We felt much better having met the teachers, and once school started, our daughter loved her new friends and school. The school bus was a bit of a hurdle for a couple of days (we brought our daughter to the bus stop for the first two days, the first day she didn't want to get on the bus, but she watched the other children, the second day she got on the first step and then turned around and got off again so we had to bring her in ourselves, but the third day she got on and never looked back!)

Two weeks after school started, we got a call that our daughter got a spot in the school one block from our home. We told the FRC we would call back with an answer. Mr Kelly called me to say how sad he was that our daughter would be leaving his class. We started to ask our daughter if she wanted to change schools and she burst into tears! So we stayed at KLo. It's been wonderful. We now have three children there: 5th grade, 3rd grade, and senior K.

So what I am saying is that your kindergarten options are all good. It helps to visit the school if you can to get a sense of the culture there. KLo has 5 kindergarten classes, so it is likely that a late applicant will go there, but it's a great school. It looks a little crazy with so many little ones at assemblies, lunch, recess, but the teachers and staff make it work. The children have a great time. The teachers are incredibly attentive. We've had children in four out of the five kindergarten classes and they've had great experiences with all of the teachers. You'll be alright.

Hope this helps.

Nina
parent of 5th grader, 3rd grader, and senior K at KLo