

User Interview 1

1. Do you have children who attend or will attend to a primary school?

Yes. My son is in first grade.

2. Do you think it is important to choose a school for primary school education level?

Although most people do not care about the school selection at the primary school level, I think this is a very important issue for me.

3. Which criteria do you give importance to when choosing a primary school for your children?

For me quality of the teachers is the most important factor. Second important thing is the safety of the neighborhood.

4. How did you choose the primary school your children go to? What were the difficulties you had in choosing a primary school? Can you tell me about your experience on this subject?

Since we had just moved to Washington state, we had no idea about the schools here. Therefore, we preferred the option closest to the house we live in. As far as I know, almost all the schools in the city of Bellevue are of good quality.

5. Do you have an idea about the organizations that rank universities around the world and the parameters that these organizations take as a basis for university ranking?

Yes, I know about them. During my graduate application, I have examined many schools, especially from the topuniversities.com. University rankings are based on some factors like the citation numbers, professor student ratios, grants for graduate studies and international student numbers.

6. If there were an organization that offers such a ranking criterion throughout the country for the primary school level, would this ranking be important for you in choosing a primary school?

Definitely. If the data about schools are prepared by properly supervised organizations, I take these rankings into account.

What do you mean by properly supervised organizations?

Since the quality of a school is determined by these rankings, security and the quality of the data used to rank these schools are very important. These data must be prepared by an impartial third party, which is regularly audited by the government.

7. What kind of criteria should be included in the ranking of primary schools?

As I mentioned earlier quality of the teachers is the most critical factor. The neighborhood and facilities of the school are also important. One another thing is the distance between school and the house we live in.

8. Although it is not as comprehensive as the university ranking, are you aware of the current organizations that rank primary schools? If yes did the rankings in this organizations give you an idea when choosing a primary school?

Beside Google rankings I had no idea about this subject.

9. What kind of functionalities should primary school ranking organizations offer?

They should offer some numeric metrics like the display the distance between current location and the preferred school. They should also show the school district safety on the map. Neighborhood-based crime rates published by some state institutions can be taken as a basis for neighborhood security score.

10. Finally, is there anything you would like to add that was not covered?

No.