

WHAT IF YOUR CHILD
IS NOT RECOMMENDED
FOR EARLY
KINDERGARTEN ENTRY?

The decision for your child to enter kindergarten early is an important one. In making a recommendation, the team of educators consider many factors. If it is decided that it would be in your child's best interest to enroll at the child's normal enrollment time the following activities are recommended.

- Utilize the public library for both story hour and activity time.
- Read to your child daily.
- Make collections for things to display.
- Have daily discussions with your child. Ask him/her questions and discuss the answers.
- Provide books, tapes, etc. Rhyming books are especially good.
- Provide scissors, colored paper, crayons, glue, pencils, tape, etc. Allow your child to use them and clean up his/her own mess. (Workbook pages are not recommended.)
- Visit the zoo, Children's Theatre, museum, etc.

- Provide "building" toys (Lincoln Logs, Lego's, Construx, Tinker Toys).
- Provide puzzles (25-50 piece puzzles.)
- Have child help with simple cooking and other household chores.
- Sort socks from laundry, sort silverware, etc.
- Help your child author and illustrate stories.
- Let your child plan, make, and pack a lunch.
- Listen to your child's stories. Encourage him/her to talk to you.
- Allow your child to make decisions.
- Limit TV time.
- Have one night a week with NO TV. Everyone reads.
- Play throw and catch with a large/small ball.
- Enter child in preschool.
- Let your child participate in activities at your church, hall, or synagogue.

*IS IT THE RIGHT
DECISION
FOR YOUR CHILD?*

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EARLY
KINDERGARTEN
ENROLLMENT

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MINIMUM KINDERGARTEN AGE IS REQUIRED BY INDIANA LAW.

In order to enter kindergarten in Indiana, a child must have his/her 5th birthday on or before August 1. This law was passed in Indiana in order to allow children time to acquire the readiness skills necessary for success in kindergarten. If deemed appropriate, exceptions may be made in cases in which the birth date of a child falls from August 2 through September 1.

IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR EARLY KINDERGARTEN ENTRY?

Checklist for Parents

- Is more mature and has a longer attention span than most children his/her age.
- Child can consistently sit with a group of children and listen to a 15 minute story.
- Can independently take care of personal needs (dress, button, zip, tie, snap).
- Bathroom trained (self-sufficient).
- Can complete 3-step oral directions without prompting or reminder (example: "Go to the kitchen, get a paper towel, and take it outside to your father.")
- Speaks clearly in complete sentences.
- Can tell a simple story to an adult (real or pretend story).
- Can initiate a play activity when given toys and takes care of toys.
- Can count objects.
- Separates from parent in unfamiliar surroundings without trauma (crying).

- Demonstrates self-confidence – is eager to complete art work or building block structure without asking, "Is it ok?"
- Does not monopolize adult time—wants to be independent.
- Has friends and can interact with peers without confrontation. Plays with other children rather than playing independently alongside of others.
- Is willing to share with playmates.
- Recognizes eight basic colors.
- Is not easily intimidated by older, larger, or more aggressive children.
- Is well behaved in public places.
- Likes to be read to.
- Adjusts easily to change.
- Is naturally curious.
- Has well developed gross and fine motor skills.

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER ABOUT EARLY ENTRY TO KINDERGARTEN:

The fact that your child will be one of the youngest in the class may put him/her at a disadvantage. In some cases, early kindergarten entrants may experience the following:

1. Due to age, attention span may be shorter than older children.
2. Gross and fine motor skills may not be as well developed.
3. Some younger children are not ready for the structure of school.
4. The child may become a follower instead of a leader and may have to work harder to keep up with older peers.
5. Due to immaturity, some early entrants must repeat kindergarten. This may compromise the child's emotional well being and self concept.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FEEL MY CHILD IS READY FOR KINDERGARTEN?

1. Before April 15, the parent shall make an appointment with the school principal or his/her designee to discuss early kindergarten entry and receive necessary forms.

For new residents, after April 15, the parent shall make an appointment with the school principal or his/her designee to discuss early kindergarten entry between August 1, and the start of school.
2. Parent shall complete the "Parent Request for Early Admission to Kindergarten Form" and schedule a conference with the school principal.
3. School personnel will consult with the parent/guardian, and administer designated tests. School staff will advise the parent/guardian of the preliminary evaluation results.
4. Evaluations will be conducted between March 1 and May 1, each year. To be considered for early entry, a child must demonstrate a high level of ability on standardized tests. (For new residents, after April 15, evaluation will be conducted between August 1, and the start of school.
5. A committee composed of the school principal and kindergarten teacher shall study written reports from Posey County Special Services and the parent. The principal shall make a final decision concerning the early admission of the child. The parent will be notified in writing regarding the decision by the school principal.
6. Should the principal decide that early entrance to kindergarten is appropriate; this is considered a provisional placement. Placement decisions are at the principal's discretion and contingent upon class size and program availability. There is no appeal process.

