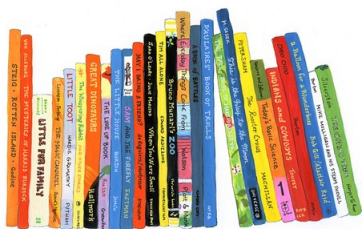


EARLY ENTRANCE MILESTONES

Many parents believe their child has reached certain developmental milestones at such a young age that exploring the option of early entrance to kindergarten is a necessity. Listed below are specific academic and social milestones that may indicate the need for formal education at a young age.

A younger child may be ready for Kindergarten if s/he...

- learned to read without being taught
- shows a long attention span for stories and conversation
- accurately retells stories with many details
- adapts to needs and skill levels of playmates
- does some mental numerical calculation
- displays a high degree of curiosity and imagination
- has intense powers of concentration and imagination
- learns new information rapidly, easily mastering new tasks
- carries out complex instructions involving several steps



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR

One of the most important factors to consider when exploring early entrance is social development. Often, very bright children who enter school early without the skills that promote good peer relationships experience difficulties in kindergarten. Ability to engage in good social relationships is a strong predictor of overall school success. If you believe that your child is very bright but socially immature, early entrance into kindergarten should be considered very carefully.

DISTRICT CONTACTS

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Shakopee Public Schools 2014



EARLY ENTRANCE into KINDERGARTEN



Information for Parents
Exploring School Options
for the 4 Year-Old Child

EARLY ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Please use this flyer to assist you in understanding the Shakopee Public Schools' early entrances policies and procedures, and the parents' role in this important educational decision.

GUIDELINES

Children 5 years of age on or before September 1 are automatically eligible to enter kindergarten. If a child's birthday occurs after September 1 and before October 15, parents may choose to explore the option of early entrance into Kindergarten.

To be considered under early entrance guidelines, the child must be socially, emotionally, and physically matured to a point which will enable them to associate and achieve with in-coming kindergarten students. The child's maturity, ability, and achievement levels will be assessed utilizing standardized measures administered by qualified district staff.

Based on the results of the assessment, the child may or may not be recommended for early entrance to kindergarten. If the child is not recommended for early entrance, the decision of the school is final.

PROCEDURES

1. **Parents exploring the early entrance option must register their child for Early Childhood Screening.** This screening is mandatory for all children entering kindergarten and provides information to verify on-target development and to assist in the decision-making process. Call the screening office at (952) 496-5072 to arrange an appointment. Screenings are held monthly.
2. **Parents are encouraged to attend the early entrance information meeting held each spring.** The Assistant



Superintendent and a school psychologist and will present information and answer questions about this educational option. The presentation will include information about curriculum expectations and outcomes for kindergarten students, the pros and cons of early entrance, and an overview of the testing that may be conducted. Early entrance applications also are distributed. Call (952) 496-5082 for meeting date and location.

3. **Parents must complete an application packet designed to provide information about their child's social-emotional, cognitive, and academic development.** Applications will be distributed at the spring information meeting. Parents unable to attend may call (952) 496-5082 to request a packet. All information must be returned by mid-May (the specific date will be in the packet). A testing fee will be required with all applications.
4. Children who are being considered for early entrance will be assessed during June for social-emotional, cognitive, and academic development. Results will be shared with parents.

5. Decisions concerning early entrance will be finalized before August 1.

KINDERGARTEN LEARNER OUTCOMES

When exploring early entrance to kindergarten, parents should consider the following kindergarten learner outcomes. Listed below are a majority of the target goals and achievements that Shakopee kindergarten students are expected to achieve by the end of the school year.

- ☐ Identify upper- and lower-case letters
- ☐ Identify constant and short-vowel sounds
- ☐ Retell a story in correct sequence
- ☐ Recognize rhyming words
- ☐ Convey ideas through writing
- ☐ Identify a book's title page
- ☐ Construct and describe an A-B-A-B pattern
- ☐ Identify more/less
- ☐ Write numerals 0 to 10
- ☐ Recognize two- to three-dimensional shapes in the environment
- ☐ Measure and compare lengths using non-standard units
- ☐ Be aware of school rules
- ☐ Sing simple melodies
- ☐ Be able to cut, color, and print
- ☐ Work and play independently and cooperatively in a group
- ☐ Follow directions and rules on the playground
- ☐ Respect the rights, feelings, and property of others



Shakopee Schools, in partnership with our community, will educate lifelong learners to succeed in a diverse world.