

## 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



## 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 positive peer relationships experience difficulties in kindergarten. The ability to engage in healthy 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.

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# Early Entrance Into Kindergarten



**Shakopee**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
EDUCATION FORWARD



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



## Kindergarten Learner Outcomes

When exploring early entrance to kindergarten, parents should consider the numerous kindergarten learner outcomes. Below are just some of the target goals students are expected to achieve by the end of the school year:

- Identify upper and lower case letters
- Identify consonant and short-vowel sounds
- Retell a story in correct sequence with key details
- Convey ideas through writing 3-5 sentences
- Write and count 0-31
- Demonstrate basic addition and subtraction skills
- Follow complex multi-step directions
- Be able to cut, color and print
- Work and play independently and cooperatively in a group
- Respect the rights, feelings and property of others

# Early Entrance Requirements

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.

## Guidelines & Procedures

To be eligible for early entrance under current guidelines, the child must be socially, emotionally and physically mature. A child will be considered for early entrance if he/she demonstrates signs of potential giftedness or developmental and academic skills of approximately one year or more ahead of their chronological age. Early Entrance to Kindergarten is a form of grade acceleration and students must be performing at levels exceeding their peers. The child's maturity, ability, and achievement levels will be assessed utilizing standardized measures administered by qualified district staff.

- 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.
- An early entrance information meeting may be held each spring at which time the high potential coordinator and a school psychologist will present information and answer questions about this educational option. The presentation will include information about curriculum expectations and outcomes for kindergarten students, pros and cons of early entrance, and an overview of the testing that may be conducted. Early entrance applications will be distributed at this time.



- Parents must complete an application packet designed to provide information about their child's social-emotional, cognitive, and academic development.
- Parents must provide verification of student's age (birth certificate).
- Parents may also be asked to have the student's current preschool teacher complete a preschool checklist.
- Children who are being considered for early entrance will be observationally assessed through a simulated kindergarten experience by a team, typically including kindergarten teacher(s), a licensed school psychologist and the high potential coordinator.
- Parents will then be notified if their child is recommended to proceed to the academic testing portion or recommended to wait until their child's age permits typical kindergarten enrollment.