



Kindergarten Information Night

Summer Birthdays and Kindergarten Readiness

If your child has a late summer birthday and you are struggling with whether to send him/her or not to Kindergarten, please know that you can wait until summer to decide and if you decide to wait, a place will be held for your child for the following year. Generally, summer birthdays do better to wait until the following year. New research says it is better to hold them out a year rather than start them and then have to retain them in Kindergarten.

Things to consider:

- ✓ **Does my child have appropriate social skills?**
- ✓ **Does my child know how to write/copy his/her own name?**
- ✓ **Does my child recognize his/her own name?**
- ✓ **Is my child showing interest in learning letters/sounds? (They should know at least the letters in his/her name—more to do well in kindergarten—generally, the majority of children will know about half of the capital and half of the lowercase letters, a few will know sounds, some children may already be reading).**
- ✓ **Does my child have an attention span of at least 10-15 minutes for sitting?**
- ✓ **Does my child seem/look/act young compared to other his/her age?**

- ✓ **Is my child reliably potty-trained? (This means they can handle all aspects of toileting)**
- ✓ **Does my child follow directions, 1-to-2 step?**
- ✓ **Does my child have good self-help skills (putting on own coat, zipping, buttoning)?**

If you are hesitating, ask yourself why? Try to take a really objective look at your child and think about only what is the very best for him/her. Many times very young kindergartners can handle the academics, but have difficulty relating to their peers who may be a whole year older. If you have any doubts, give your child the gift of time and wait a year. Kindergarten is almost always easier if children are older.

Today, Kindergarten is highly academic; it is not all play as many remember. We have high expectations/high standards to meet and most kindergartners will leave in June reading. Try to think ahead to when your child is a teenager, do you want them to be young and have to be the last to get their driver's license or be older and one of the first. Older teens are more able to resist temptation and peer pressure as well and be leaders rather than followers. If your child turns 5 in the summer and is behind academically he may very well play 'catch-up' the rest of his/her academic career. And while he/she is trying to 'catch up' the rest are NOT standing still, they are moving at lightning speed. We have had many, many parents tell us they are sorry they



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sent a child too early, but we've never had anyone say they were sorry they waited another year.

If you do wait, be sure you put that year to good use. Put your child in a good pre-kindergarten program and work with him/her at home to ensure your child comes well prepared.



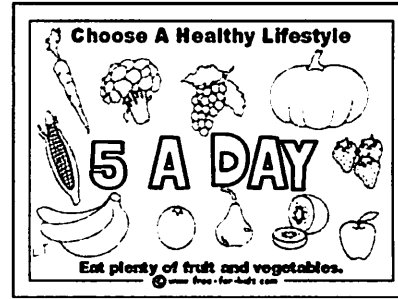
Preparing for Kindergarten

Read to him/her every day, talk about what is the front/back of a book, where we start reading on a page, when we turn a page, count words and letters on a page, search for letters in their names, ask questions about what you've just read—how is it alike or different from other stories you've read, count everything, play board/card games, sing songs, play with letters, numbers, words.



Work on writing his/her name correctly right from the start with first letter capital, the rest lowercase--- it is extremely difficult to get some children to switch if they have been taught to write it in all capitals.

Children who have had many card games experiences with puzzles and board or tend to find math easy. A summer spent with these will be time well-spent.**C**



Give time and attention to your child's eating habits and learn to provide nutritious meals. There are many internet resources for ideas to pack a wholesome lunch/snack. Please send a source of protein, fresh fruits/vegetables and very few, if any sweets. Water is always a good choice for drinking or they can buy milk. Stay away from sugary-sweet drinks. Nutrition really does make a difference in how well students can think/work.

Kindergarten is a great deal of fun even though we have tons of work to do; we'll be helping each other and taking care of each other. We want your child to love learning and his/her experience at kindergarten. We'll be doing all we can to make sure that happens.

