

1. WHAT IS AN EARLY ENTRANCE PROGRAM?

A child who will turn five years of age between August 1 and by/on January 1st of the school year for which admission is requested may qualify for early entrance to kindergarten if all of the requirements listed below are met:

- * The child must demonstrate intellectual functioning at or above the 99th percentile (130 IQ +) for his/her age. This means that 1 in every 100 children tested will be eligible under this criteria.

The child will be assessed in several achievement areas: letter-word identification, spelling, passage comprehension, applied problems and calculation.

- * The child must demonstrate social and emotional characteristics which would permit him/her to conform to the pattern of behavior commonly expected of children in kindergarten. Such factors include cooperation, self-confidence, attention span, independence, ability to follow directions and the ability to get along with peers and adults.

- * The child must demonstrate visual-motor development and muscular coordination at a level of one or more years above his/her chronological age.

2. WHY IS THERE AN EARLY ENTRANCE PROGRAM?

The Early Entrance program was established to comply with Ohio Revised Code 3321.01 which necessitates the administration of an evaluation program for children who fail to meet the age requirement for entrance into kindergarten, but who will be five years of age between August 1 and by/on January 1st of the year entrance is requested. The intent of the law is to provide a time period whereby those children **developing well beyond their age level** are granted an opportunity to be evaluated for possible early entrance into school.

3. FOR WHAT KIND OF CHILD IS THIS PROGRAM DESIGNED?

The primary purpose of the program is to identify those children whose developmental levels are so advanced that they might be harmed by not being admitted early.

4. WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS THE DAY OF THE EVALUATION?

A school psychologist will administer several standardized tests to your child in an individual setting. The testing will generally take one to one-and-a-half hours. You will be invited to wait for your child outside the testing room, or you may make arrangements to leave and return at a designated time.

5. HOW DO I PREPARE MY CHILD FOR THE DAY OF THE EVALUATION?

Hopefully you have given serious and realistic consideration to the criteria for early entrance acceptance before registering your child. Parental attempts to "coach" a child will often intensify the anxiety of the situation, especially if the child is made to feel that the "test" must be "passed." Since most of the tasks used in the evaluation are developmental in nature, the child cannot "pass" or "fail." Instead, the testing is designed to judge whether or not a child is **developmentally** and **academically prepared** for kindergarten entry.

6. HOW WILL I KNOW WHETHER OR NOT MY CHILD HAS MET THE CRITERIA?

The acceleration team will schedule a follow up meeting with you after all the testing has been completed. All information will be reviewed with you at that time and you will be informed as to whether or not your child has met the eligibility requirements.

7. HOW WILL MY CHILD FEEL IF HE/SHE IS NOT AMONG THE CHILDREN ACCEPTED?

Much of the child's reaction will depend on how the parent has prepared the child for the testing program, as well as how the parent reacts to the recommendation. A child who has been subjected to the testing process without proper emotional preparation and/or whose parents react negatively to the results may feel terribly disappointed. A child's first experience with school could turn into a negative experience.

8. WHAT ARE SOME REASONS FOR CHILDREN NOT MEETING THE CRITERIA?

Overwhelmingly, the basic reason that most children do not meet the eligibility criteria is that they are developing normally and are better suited to enter school with their own age group. Occasionally, a child may display a problem requiring the attention of the parent and possible follow-up. If such a problem exists, you will be advised the day of the evaluation.

9. WHY ARE THE STANDARDS OF ACCEPTANCE SO DEMANDING?

Past experience and research have shown that most children do better after entering school with their own age group. Other children do better when they delay kindergarten entry by one year. The child who enters early is placed in a highly competitive situation with children as much as one year older who have the advantage of as much as a full year's life experience and developmental time.

10. SUPPOSE I CHANGE MY MIND AFTER MY CHILD HAS BEEN ACCEPTED?

You, as the child's parent, will actually make the final decision to enter your child if early entrance acceptance has been granted. You will have been given our professional opinion, but whether or not you actually enroll your child is your decision. The first six weeks of the regular school year are considered a trial period for all early entrance pupils.

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