

EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN



Ashtabula Area City Schools

Revised Spring, 2018

Early Admission to Kindergarten: Is it Right for MY Child?

Things to Consider

It is important that early entry to kindergarten be right for the child, not that early entry be right for the parents' wishes and desires. This option should be to enhance an advanced learner's environment, not to take the place of quality childcare.

There is a difference between **ability** and **achievement**. Some children appear exceptional because they have had lots of educational opportunities, such as a high quality preschool program. Early entrance is not designed for children who have had lots of educational opportunities. It is designed for the gifted child who easily achieves when presented with new material.

For a very few children, early entrance to kindergarten will be exactly what the child needs. These children, already seeking learning situations, can benefit from the opportunity to channel their thoughts and efforts. Children who already have a gap between their chronological age and academic abilities may enjoy reduced frustration by attending school with slightly older children.

How do you know if early admission is appropriate for YOUR child?

The first thing you need to do is to look at your child:

- Are you constantly amazed at the things your child is doing and saying?
- Does your child show a genuine interest in learning?
- Does your child seek out learning opportunities?
- Compared to children the same age, does your child have stronger fine motor skills?
- Does your child function well in a structured environment?
- Does your child prefer to be with older children?
- Does your child read?
- Can your child identify, write, and represent numeric values 0-20?
- Can your child write his/her full name, phrases and sentences?
- Compared to other children the same age, does your child concentrate on certain activities longer (with the exception of video games and movies/TV)?
- Does your child understand the meaning and use of words better than other children the same age?

If you are answering yes to these questions, your child may be a candidate for early entry to kindergarten.

EXPECTATIONS FOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

Important Developmental Factors:

Kindergarten children should:

- have average fine and gross motor skills (holding and using a pencil, skipping, running, jumping)
- be able to use the computer to play games and find information
- be able to use the restroom without needing any help
- be able to button, zip up pants and coats, fasten shoes, take off his/her coat without help
- be able to separate from parents without being upset.
- be able to persevere with difficult tasks
- be able to pay attention for relatively long periods of instruction
- be able to handle all day classroom instruction
- be able to draw and trace basic shapes and cut with scissors

Important Interpersonal skills for entering school:

Kindergarten children should:

- be able to handle feedback and criticism and change behavior based on the feedback
- generally behave in a way that is positive and polite toward others
- be able to interact well with classmates
- respect teachers and adults
- be able to learn and follow routines

Ashtabula Area City Schools Early Entrance Procedure

- Early entrance to Kindergarten is addressed through gifted education evaluations.
- The Acceleration committee will consider all information gathered as part of the assessment but will be looking for intelligence quotient scores of 115 or higher for consideration to early entrance to Kindergarten.
 - An IQ score of 115 means that the child scored better than 80-85% of children the same age.

Note: Evaluations will be conducted during the last week in April and the first week in May. Referrals must be received prior to that date in order to ensure that a decision can be made by the acceleration committee in May.

Recommended dates:

- April 16** Deadline for early entrance to Kindergarten Referral and Applications for consideration in the Spring.
Return referral forms/application to: Christina Gulley, School Psychologist
Ontario Primary
2302 Wade Avenue
Ashtabula, OH 44004
(440) 992-1240 extension 41109
- May 9** Deadline to complete evaluations
- May** Acceleration Committee meetings; actual date will be announced yearly

IMPORTANT:

Very few children qualify for early entrance to kindergarten. Please make sure to proceed with child care arrangements.

APPLYING FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

- If you believe your child may be a good candidate for early entrance, obtain an information/application packet by visiting the aacs.net website, by contacting the primary elementary buildings: Huron Primary (992-1230), Ontario Primary (992-1240), Michigan Primary (992-1250) or by contacting the registration office (992-1234).
- Once the application has been completed, it is strongly recommended that it is returned to Christina Gulley (Ontario Primary) **NO later than April 16** in the year for which admission is being requested in order to ensure that children will be evaluated in the Spring of that year.
- The evaluation process takes up to 90 days, so there is no guarantee that referrals received after June 15 can be processed in time for placement before the start of the school year. In order to not disrupt classes, and to ease transition for students, placements generally start at the beginning of a semester.

PERMISSION FOR EARLY ENTRANCE EVALUATION:

I _____ give my permission for the Ashtabula Area City School District
Parent/Guardian

to respond to a request for assessment for : _____
Child's Name

Child's Date of Birth: _____

In giving permission, I understand that the following will occur.

1. An observation in either the home environment or in a preschool or Head Start
2. Assessment (including general intelligence assessment, academic testing, screening information)
3. Other, as needed

ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT:

All instruments used must be on the Ohio Department of Education's Chart of Approved Gifted Identification/Screening Instruments including screenings for Specific Academic Abilities. The Ashtabula Area City School District typically uses one or more of the following testing instruments:

- Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scales of Intelligence (WPPSI) Fourth Edition
- Wechsler Individual Achievement Test Third Edition (WIAT-III)
- Universal Nonverbal Intelligence Test (UNIT)
- Wechsler Nonverbal Scale of Ability
- Woodcock Johnson Tests of Achievement (WJIV)

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Is a second language spoken in the home? YES No
IF YES, what language(s)?
2. Does your student have an IEP or need assistive technology or other accommodations in order to be tested? YES No
IF YES, please specify:

I further understand and agree that the information collected by the school district will then be reviewed by the team for the purpose of evaluating my child as a candidate for Early Entrance to Kindergarten.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Date Received: _____