

Early Entrance

The State of Ohio has mandated, and Findlay City Schools Board of Education has adopted, the policy that a child must turn five on or before August 1st in order to enter Kindergarten for the current school year. Early Entrance is available to those students who will turn five from August 2nd through December 31st of the current school year.

Early Entrance into Kindergarten is designed to meet the needs of highly advanced children. Children that qualify for advanced placement must possess superior cognitive ability, a high level of social maturity, advanced school readiness skills, and good motor development as compared to their peers. Typically children who are considered for advanced placement are functioning approximately 18-24 months above their peers in superior cognitive ability, social maturity, school readiness skills, and motor development. Early Entrance kindergarten seeks to provide for individual differences in children and is essentially a method of acceleration for students that require the placement.

Early Entrance is not appropriate, nor is it intended, as a means to enroll a student because the child does not meet the cutoff date for entrance into Kindergarten.

The Early Entrance Application and Screening Checklist provided by the Office of Student Services must be completed and submitted to Student Services, no later than May 15th.

Once the application has been reviewed, parents will be contacted by the gifted coordinator/school psychologist who will discuss the screening results and whether or not further assessment is appropriate. If additional assessment is appropriate, the gifted coordinator/school psychologist will schedule an appointment to evaluate the child.

Parents and community agencies are often under the impression that a child may enter Kindergarten even if he/she does not meet the cut-off date requirement (as set forth by the State of Ohio) by completing an application for early entrance. This assumption has placed undue pressure on children and has been a source of emotional conflict for parents.

The process for Early Entrance into kindergarten will include a screening instrument (developed by FCS school psychologists and the gifted coordinators) will be utilized to educate parents regarding advanced skills and to gain specific information regarding a child's skill level. The screening information will be used to better assess if IQ/achievement testing is necessary.

In order for Early Entrance to be granted, a child must possess superior cognitive ability, a high level of social maturity, advanced school readiness skills, and good motor development as compared to their peers.

EARLY ENTRANCE PROCEDURE

- I. Parents register the child for Kindergarten at the building the child would attend in the fall.
- II. Parents contact Student Services to obtain an Early Entrance application.
- III. Parents complete and submit the application to Student Services no later than May 15.
- IV. The gifted coordinator/school psychologist reviews the application and contacts the parent to discuss screening results and whether further assessment is warranted.
- V. If deemed appropriate, the child is individually evaluated by the school psychologist, kindergarten teacher and the gifted coordinator. The parent is then contacted with assessment results.

The parent can appeal the committee decision by sending a letter within thirty days to the superintendent. Decision of the superintendent is final.

Adopted 2/23/04
Revised 6/13/05
Reviewed 6/18/2012
Revised 8/23/2012
Revised 8/8/2016

**FINDLAY CITY SCHOOLS
STUDENT SERVICES
2019 BROAD AVE
FINDLAY, OHIO 45840**

EARLY ENTRANCE APPLICATION AND SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

Child's Name _____ Date Of Birth _____

Parent's Name(s) _____

Address: _____
(street) (City/State/Zip)

Phone _____ School Building Child Will Attend: _____

PLEASE CHECK ITEMS THAT USUALLY OR OFTEN APPLY TO YOUR CHILD:

SOCIAL SKILLS:

- _____ Separates easily from parents
- _____ Participates in new situations (V)
- _____ Initiates contacts with familiar adults
- _____ Asks for adult help when needed
- _____ Often plays with older children (V)
- _____ Describes his/her feelings
- _____ Shows positive attitude toward school
- _____ Discriminates between socially acceptable and non acceptable behavior (V)
- _____ Asserts self in socially acceptable ways
- _____ Demonstrates ability to "show and tell" without major discomfort
- _____ Participates in competitive play activities (V)
- _____ Plays cooperatively with peers
- _____ Cooperates in group activities
- _____ Asks for the reasons for rules (V)
- _____ Initiates social contacts and interactions with peers
- _____ Has make-believe playmates (V)
- _____ Serves as a leader in peer relationships (V)
- _____ Complies with adult directions
- _____ Follows classroom rules and directions
- _____ Waits his/her turn for teacher or adult's attention
- _____ Copes with criticism and teasing (V)
- _____ Copes independently in problem situations (V)
- _____ Recognizes another's need for help and gives assistance
- _____ Recognizes feeling of others (V)
- _____ Respects property and rights of others
- _____ Admits responsibility for errors or wrongdoing (V)
- _____ Asks permission to use others' possessions
- _____ Insists that people be "fair."

READINESS SKILLS:

- States address
- States phone number
- States birthday
- Can print first, middle and last name
- Knows the names of basic colors
- Can recognize numbers 1-12 (out of order)
- Can count to 20
- Can count objects to 20
- Recognizes all capital letters (V)
- Recognizes all lower case letters (V)
- Recognizes letter sound association (V)
- Listens to stories
- Uses 5-6 word sentences routinely
- Communicates effectively
- Memorizes books
- Discriminates between real word and similar nonsense words
- Recalls events from story presented orally
- Reads words (V)
- Reads books (V)
- Follows three-step verbal commands

MOTOR SKILLS:

- Hops forward on one foot without support
- Hops on one foot for 10 feet
- Catches ball
- Walked early (V)
- Stands on each foot alternately with eyes closed
- Jumps rope without assistance (V)
- Walks down stairs alternating feet
- Holds paper with one hand while drawing or writing with other hand
- Folds sheets of paper
- Throws ball accurately at target (V)
- Uses scissors to cut paper
- Ties shoes
- Skips on alternate feet for 20 feet (V)
- Copies cross, triangle and square
- Draws a person with six body parts
- Copies simple words
- Copies words with upper and lowercase letters (V)
- Copies diamond (V)
- Writes simple sentence (V)
- Assembles puzzles designed for older children (V)

COGNITIVE SKILLS:

- _____ Identifies larger of two numbers
- _____ Repeats six digit sequences (V)
- _____ Recalls facts from story presented orally (V)
- _____ Talked early (V)
- _____ Has a long attention span for activities that interest him/her (V)
- _____ Sequences familiar events in order (V)
- _____ Solves simple addition and subtraction problems (V)
- _____ Identifies past and present activities
- _____ Uses advanced sentence structure and vocabulary (V)
- _____ Has an excellent memory (V)
- _____ Categorizes familiar objects by function
- _____ Reasons well (V)
- _____ Thinks of creative ways to solve problems (V)
- _____ Identifies first, middle and last objects in a row
- _____ Tells time to hour and half hour (V)
- _____ Groups objects by shape and color (V)
- _____ Is extremely curious (V)
- _____ Has a spontaneous and/or advanced sense of humor (V)
- _____ Is eager to try new things (V)
- _____ Is interested in what is on television and in newspapers, in addition to cartoons and comics (V)

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