Will My Child Benefit From an Extra Year of Kindergarten? Parent Guide #24

Beginning in 2013, a child who is five years old on or before November 1 is able to enroll in kindergarten.*

▶In 2014, a child who is five years old on or before October 1 may enroll in kindergarten.*
▶In 2015 and beyond, a child who is five years old on or before September 1 may enroll in kindergarten.*

Kindergarten is a <u>one-school-year</u> program before first grade.

Starting kindergarten may be a time of concern for some families and teachers.

If you are thinking about sending your child to developmental kindergarten, you should know these things:

- Developmental kindergarten is intended to provide children who are not ready an extra year of schooling.
- Children who attend developmental kindergarten and then go on to kindergarten have school records that indicate they were retained.
- It is not true that holding your child back will help him/her socially or academically or to have success in sports.
- Research shows that children who attended developmental kindergarten and then kindergarten have no long-term gains.

- Children who attended two years of kindergarten may have lower self-esteem and are 30 percent more likely to drop out of high school.
- Age does not matter in an appropriate kindergarten.
- Kindergarten should be ready to support all children.
- School success differences between the oldest and youngest children in a class tend to disappear by third grade.
- Teachers and parents tend to hold back the youngest children.

Advice to families:
- Become familiar with the kindergartens in your area. Are the staff members ready to meet the needs of ALL children?
- Find out why families are holding their children back.
- Keep the future in mind. How old will your child be in middle school? At what grade will he/she be old enough to drive? At what age will your child graduate from high school?

*Please see Parent Guide #4 for information about an early entry option for kindergarten enrollment.

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