



Kindergarten Readiness

Loveland Early Childhood Center welcomes all children who are five years old on or before September 30th of the current school year. Sometimes parents question whether their child is ready for kindergarten or should wait another year. Unfortunately, there is no perfect formula to determine whether or not a child is truly ready for kindergarten. Here are some facts to consider:

- Birth date alone does not determine whether a child is ready for kindergarten. There is no evidence that children with summer birthdays experience increased academic or social issues.
- Although preschool may be helpful to your child's development, it is not a prerequisite for kindergarten.
- Enrolling a child with intentions of repeating the kindergarten year is not considered a sound intervention strategy at LECC. We believe in providing strategic interventions, as needed, to children as they progress through each year of their school career. Retention as part of an intervention strategy may be made in quite unusual instances and only after an extensive period of quality and closely monitored direct interventions with the child.

It is helpful if a child brings most of these skills with him/her to kindergarten:

Academic Skills

- *Print own name
- *Identify some letters & sounds
- *Recognize rhyming words
- *Know basic shapes & colors
- *Count to 10
- *Recognize numbers
- *Sort objects by color, size or shape
- *Talk in complete sentences of 5-6 words
- *Retell a story in sequential order
- *Represent simple objects through drawing
- *Hold & use a pencil & scissors
- *Have basic computer mouse competence

Social & Self Help Skills

- *Show a general understanding of the time of day
- *Pay attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks & stories
- *Button shirts, pants, coats and zip zippers
- *Manage bathroom needs
- *Clean up personal space
- *Know first & last name
- *Share materials with others
- *Follow 2-3 part directions
- *Separate from parents without getting upset

If you have any additional questions about school readiness, please feel free to contact our school counselor.