

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 if 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.

Here is a checklist of general kindergarten readiness skills you may wish to consider in your decision-making:

- Identifies some alphabet letters
- Recognizes rhyming sounds
- Identifies the beginning sounds of some words
- Traces basic shapes
- Cuts with scissors
- Counts to ten
- Sorts objects by color, size, or shape
- Identifies different colors
- Shows general understanding of time of day
- Pays attention for short periods of time to adult-directed tasks
- Talks in complete sentences of five to six words
- Buttons shirts, pants, coats, and zips zippers
- Manages bathroom needs
- Separates from parent without being upset

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