



## Early Entrance to Kindergarten Guidelines Zionsville Community Schools

### **Kindergarten:**

Any child who is five years of age on or before **August 1st** is eligible to attend Kindergarten in Zionsville Community Schools and should register for Kindergarten Round-Up at their home school.

Any child who will turn five years of age between **August 2nd** and **September 30th** is eligible to apply for early entrance to kindergarten.

Zionsville Community Schools believes that as a general rule, it is beneficial for students to be five years old or older to enter kindergarten. But it is also recognized that there are some exceptional children who are well-advanced -- socially, emotionally, and academically-- who would benefit from early entrance.

Parents who wish to apply for early entrance to kindergarten must complete the **Early Entrance Application** found on this website and submit the forms to the Academic Services Office, Zionsville Community Schools Educational Services Center, 900 Mulberry Street, Zionsville, IN. 46077 by June 1st.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** As professionals experienced with the performance of thousands of children, we reserve the right to evaluate information submitted and make our own determinations about whether we will waive the entrance requirement for any child. While we welcome parents to engage with us as partners, a parent who artificially skews testing data that we might use by "rigorously prepping" his/her child for assessments ahead of time actually does not enter the process in good faith--as it is designed to give us accurate pictures of a child's true performance levels and ability to learn rather than what he/she has been "trained" to do in the months prior to the assessment. Our testing norms and decision protocols take into account that this is most children's first experience with assessments. With that said, we have had parents who believe that it is in their child's best interest for them to do this, and in many of those situations, when the child arrives for the simulation, he/she will evidence stress and anxiety in degrees that often render test results less important to us. If our teacher assessment team perceives children are highly stressed about their parents' expectations for their academic outcomes during the testing and assessment day, that has a negative impact on our willingness to offer early entrance to that child as it is not our wish to bring our littlest learners into school settings that will contribute detrimentally to their emotional health over time.