



Academic Acceleration for Advanced Learners Referral Form

ABOUT EARLY ENTRANCE

A unique type of whole-grade acceleration is early entrance to school (i.e. kindergarten or first grade). For academically talented young children, early entrance to school may be an excellent option. There is abundant evidence that bright children who are carefully selected for early entrance generally perform very well, both academically and socially.

Referral for:

Child's Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Type of Acceleration Requested:

_____ Early Entrance to Kindergarten (my child will be 5 before January 1)

_____ Early Entrance to Kindergarten (my child will **not** be 5 before January 1)

_____ Early Entrance to 1st Grade (my child will be 6 before January 1)

_____ Early Entrance to 1st Grade (my child will **not** be 6 before January 1)

Children who will benefit from early entrance may not exhibit all of the characteristics listed below; however, strong candidates will exhibit more of these characteristics than other children.

What to look for in the areas of ability/achievement/aptitude/behavior?

My child seems advanced beyond other children his/her age in these ways:

- ☐ Understands the meanings and use of words better than other children his/her age;
- ☐ Is curious about many things and asks questions often;
- ☐ Is very good at working puzzles or solving problems;

- ☐ Has a great sense of humor and understands jokes more than other children his/her age;
 - ☐ Has a good memory and remembers details of conversations or stories;
 - ☐ Is interested in difficult concepts such as space and time;
 - ☐ Concentrates on certain activities much longer than other children his/her age;
 - ☐ Reads (and understands) text in picture books or chapter books;
 - ☐ Figures out math-related problems better than other children his/her age.
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What are some important school and academic factors?

My child

- ☐ Enjoys learning new information and skills;
 - ☐ Participates in community-sponsored activities such as sports, dance, gymnastics, library and museum programs;
 - ☐ Believes he/she is capable of succeeding at new tasks.
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What are some important developmental factors?

My child has the following developmental factors:

- ☐ He/She has average fine and large motor coordination (i.e. holding a pencil, skipping);
 - ☐ He/She is able to use the computer to play games or find information.
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What are some important interpersonal skills for entering school?

My child:

- ☐ Thoughtfully considers feedback and criticism and modifies behavior appropriately;
 - ☐ Often behaves in a way that is positive and effective;
 - ☐ Has good interpersonal skills with age-mates as well as with both older and younger children and with adults;
 - ☐ Has excellent interpersonal relationships with adults in a teaching role.
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What are some important attitudes and supports necessary for success in school?

- ☐ *My child is enthusiastic about going to kindergarten or first grade.*
- ☐ *As a parent, I understand that a child's success in school depends upon support provided at home. I am able to give my child additional support to help in his/her transition to a new setting with much higher academic demands than he/she encountered in preschool.*

Some considerations:

- ✓ If your child has one or more older siblings in the grade in which he/she will be placed if admitted by early entrance, this may cause social/emotional issues in the family. If this is the case, acceleration may not be advisable.
- ✓ If your child often did not want to attend preschool or missed preschool often because of illness or family issues, acceleration may not be advisable.

I believe that my child exhibits a number of the characteristics listed above that indicate he/she might benefit by early entrance to school. I have reviewed the considerations and do not feel they would negatively impact my child's success in school. I request an evaluation for my child for possible early entrance to kindergarten or first grade.

Parent / Legal Guardian _____

Date _____

The referral request will be processed and parents will receive the final determination for early entrance in 45-60 days from the date the referral is received.

School Representative Receiving Referral _____

Date _____