



Summer  
2021

# Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Bellevue School District



# Welcome to BSD!

## OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- Research findings
- Identification process
- Screening process
- Testing process





# WHO WE ARE!

Debbie Brandt, EEK Schedule/Testing Coordinator

[brandtd@bsd405.org](mailto:brandtd@bsd405.org)

Testing coordinator, appeals contact

Beth Orr, Office Manager ELP

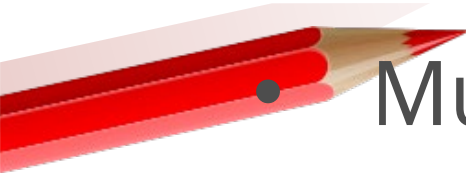


[EEK@bsd405.org](mailto:EEK@bsd405.org)

Application questions, residency questions, payment questions

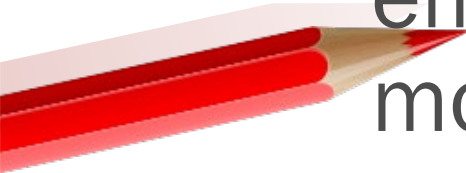
# BSD POLICY



- 3110-WA state cut-off for entering K is age 5 by August 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Procedure 3110.1P - Early Entrance only considered for children who will be 5 between Sept 1<sup>st</sup> - Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021
  - Must show proof of residency in BSD to apply
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# Kindergarten



- Traditionally, it was accepted that the most academically advanced children in Kindergarten would have the most promising futures.
  - We now know that children with strong social-emotional skills in Kindergarten have the most promising futures.
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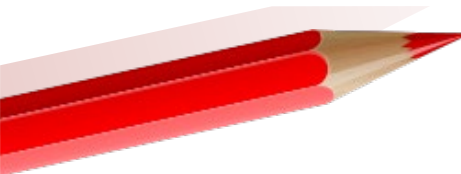




# Social Skills

## **Social skills are a better predictor for success than academics\***

- Socially competent children in kindergarten were much more likely to have a college degree and a full-time job by 25.
- Socially limited children have an increased chance of negative outcomes including addiction, being arrested and unemployed.

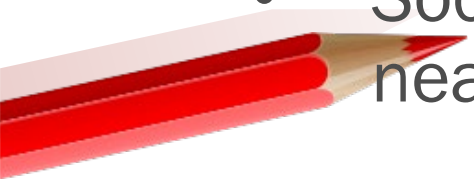


\*2015 Duke University and Pennsylvania State University study followed children from Kindergarten for over 20 years has shown that their social skills entering Kindergarten are a better predictor of success than academics.

# Oldest Kids in Class Do Better\*



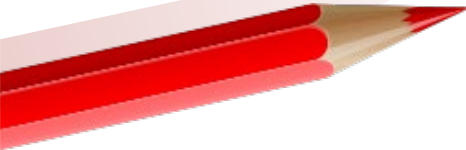
- Perform better throughout all their academic career
- Better odds of attending college and graduation from an elite institution
- Academic “Red Shirting”
- The gap occurs at all socioeconomic levels
- Social and cognitive differences between children who are nearly a year apart can be very dramatic



**\*National Bureau of Economic Research**

# Kindergarten Readiness




- Washington State has entering kindergarten assessments ([WaKids](#))
  - Six aspects of development are measured (Social-Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive, Literacy, Math)
  - Each child is unique and develops in their own way at different paces
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# Social Emotional

## Crucial Social Skills Entering Kindergarten

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- Cooperation with peers
  - Helpfulness to peers
  - Ability to read and understand feelings
  - Problem-solving ability without adult intervention

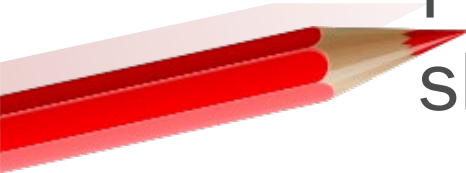
## Social Emotional (cont.)

### Crucial Social Skills Entering Kindergarten

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- Sustains focus until task is completed
  - Accepts reasonable challenges, continues through frustration
  - Expresses self appropriately (e.g., without fighting/crying)

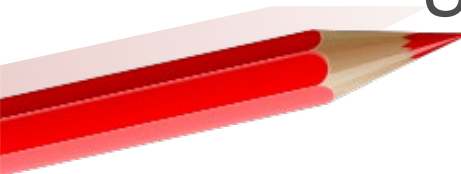
# Developmental Skills



- Emotional/behavioral regulation
  - Persistence
  - Attentiveness
  - Verbal skills (auditory memory, verbal reasoning)
  - Fine motor & visual-motor skills (drawing, copying shapes, visual memory)
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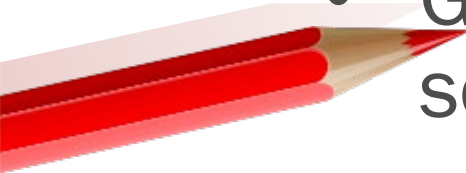
# Language Skills



- Has extensive vocabular, including technical words (e.g., pediatrician)
  - Describes relationships between objects
  - Links spoken communication to written language
  - Uses language that stimulates concept development
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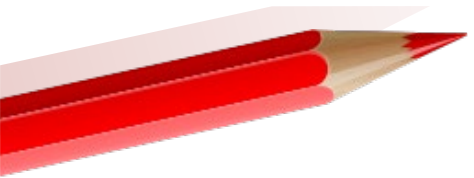
# Pre-Academic Skills

- Early math concepts (knowledge of numbers, ordinality)
  - Early language & reading skills (vocabulary, knowledge of letters, words, beginning/ending word sounds)
  - General knowledge of the world (physical & social science)
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# Pre-Academic Skills (cont.)



- Relates information learned about natural world
- Uses basic numbers & counting operations
- Blends letter-sounds into words

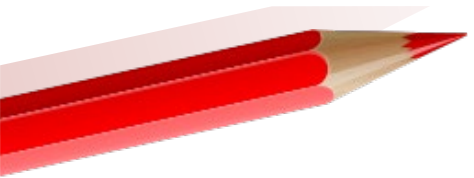




# Fine Motor Skills

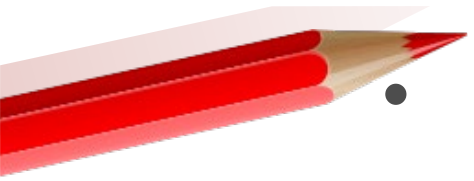


- Writes most letters in name
- Able to copy more complex shapes & designs





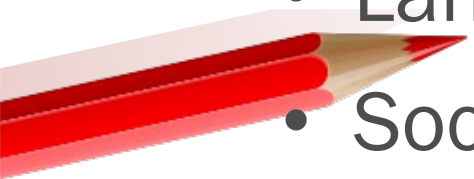
## Early Entrance Kindergarteners have

- Greater than  $\geq 1$  ability ahead of peers by at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  their age
  - Long attention span
  - Early ability to reason abstractly
  - Early verbal ability
  - Strong mathematical skills
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# Standardized Assessment Measures

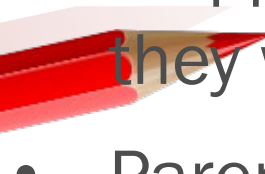


- Cognitive – solve visual spatial puzzles and knowledge of vocabulary
- Motor – basic coordination tasks
- Visual-motor – paper-pencil tasks, copying shapes
- Language – expressive/receptive communication skills
- Social/Emotional – Teacher questionnaires and input




# Identification Process



- Parents/guardians can submit a request for screening.
  - Must have moved to the Bellevue School District Boundary and be an established resident after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, for summer testing.
  - All applicants are screened in the social-emotional domain first.
  - If applicant meets threshold of skills at or above 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, they will be eligible for further testing.
  - Parents/guardians submit testing applications along with applicable fees.
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# Screening Request


Parents/Guardians  
Submit Screening  
Application Packet

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- Screening application form sent to teachers
  - Parent questionnaire
  - Personal check or money order for \$75
  - Establish Residency (possible ways on checklist)
  - EEK Checklist

- All materials to the ELP Office, address is listed on the checklist
- Upon receipt you will be given the social emotional screener to give to your child's preschool/daycare teacher

# Screening Results




- Social Skills screener and teacher questionnaires must be received by August 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Screener is scored
  - Parent letter with results will be emailed no later than August 24<sup>th</sup> , 2021
  - If applicant scores in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile rank or higher, they are eligible for further testing in four assessment areas: cognitive, large/fine motor, and visual-motor
- 




# EEK Testing Request



- Parents/guardians will complete the testing application and submit the testing fee of \$300
  - Testing appointment confirmation sent via email.
  - Testing will take place end of August 2021
  - Testing dates/times cannot be requested or changed due to a rigorous testing schedule
  - Five Assessment Areas: cognitive, large/fine motor, visual-motor, social/emotional and language
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# Assessment Procedures



- Testing team consists of three educators: school psychologist, classroom teacher and additional professional if needed
  - Length of testing approximately 1 – 1 ½ hours
  - Test administered in English only
  - 1:1 testing situation
  - Parents not allowed in testing area
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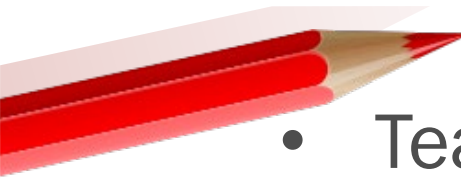
# Testing Appointment



- If your child is sick on the day of your testing appointment, please call or email the Early Learning Program office to cancel and request a make-up testing appointment (if available)
  - Parents must stay on the premises for the duration of the testing appointment
  - EMAIL: [EEK@BSD405.ORG](mailto:EEK@BSD405.ORG)
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# Testing Evaluation

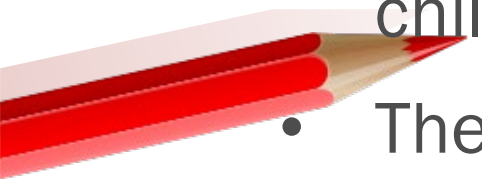


- Test scores will be evaluated using Bellevue School District scoring criteria
  - Minimum score for consideration:
    - Cognitive and Communication – 90<sup>TH</sup> percentile
    - Developmental areas must be six months' advanced of child's chronological age (5 – 5 ½ year old age equivalency)
  - Teacher input weighed
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## Recommendation for K



- Team recommendation for early entrance if child meets or exceeds scoring criteria to demonstrate high cognitive ability and is advanced in all 5 developmental areas
- If recommended, your neighborhood school will be notified
- You will need to take the acceptance letter and register your child for kindergarten at your neighborhood school
- The school's Guidance Team will monitor your child's progress (4-6 week trial period)

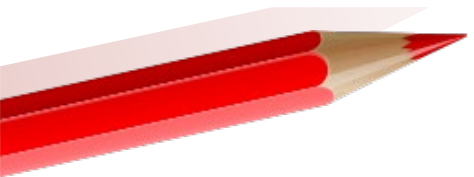




# Notification



- Parents will be sent via email the testing results and team recommendation within 1 week of testing date



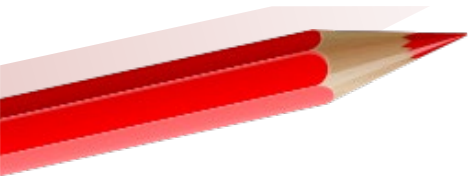




# BSD Eligibility Data




- Over the past 5 years, 2% of applicants were recommended for Early Entrance to Kindergarten



# Appeals

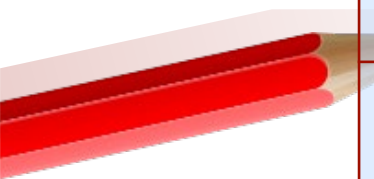


- Process for appeal
  - A written appeal letter can be submitted to Debbie Brandt, ([brandtd@bsd405.org](mailto:brandtd@bsd405.org)), EEK Scheduling/Testing Coordinator, within 14 school days of the decision
  - An appeal committee will review the appeal and make final recommendation
  - Children can only complete BSD testing for Early Entrance one time
  - Illness will not be considered a valid reason
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# Next Steps for Parents



DATE	ACTION ITEM
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Download Early Entrance Kindergarten (EEK) Application Packet, online
August 15 <sup>th</sup> (midnight)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Parent Checklist <b>DUE</b> – included in the EEK Application Packet</li><li>2. EEK Application <b>DUE</b> – included in the EEK Application Packet</li><li>3. Parent Questionnaire <b>DUE</b> – included in the EEK Application Packet</li><li>4. Personal Check/Money Order <b>DUE</b> - \$75</li><li>5. Residency Established with the Preschool Office <b>DUE</b> – instructions included in the EEK Application Packet</li></ol>
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	SEL Assessment & Teacher Questionnaire will be sent out to preschool provider via email
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	SEL Assessments & Teacher Questionnaire <b>DUE</b>
August 24 <sup>th</sup>	Parent letters will be emailed both to those who meet the SEL Benchmarks and will require further testing AND to those who did not meet the SEL Benchmarks
Last week in August	Further testing times will be scheduled for those that meet the SEL Benchmarks



# Questions?

Please contact

Website:  
[www.bsd405.org/eek](http://www.bsd405.org/eek)

Email:  
[EEK@BSD405.ORG](mailto:EEK@BSD405.ORG)





Thank You!

Bellevue School District