

Mesa Public Schools

Kindergarten

Early Admission Application Packet



2019-2020

Dear Parents,

Mesa School Public Schools is dedicated to working on behalf of the children in our community to ensure that decisions are made that will best serve the children. To this end, the district has designed a several step process to determine whether the kindergarten classroom is the best learning environment for an age-exception child. (An age-exception child is one who turns five on or after September 1st but, on or before December 31st of the current year.) Students accepted for early entrance to kindergarten may only attend full-day programs.

The process is stated below:

- Step One: At the home school, parents pick up and complete the Mesa Kindergarten Early Admissions Parent Checklist included in this packet. If, after completing the checklist, the parent believes the child is a candidate for early entrance, parents proceed to the next step.
- Step Two: Parents complete the Kindergarten Early Admissions Application and contact the home school office to set up a screening appointment. We will not begin screening any child for early entrance until **late May**. Early entrance screening will not be available once school has begun in August. Students who have not been screened will not be granted early admission.
- Step Three: Parents bring a birth certificate and the completed Kindergarten Early Entrance Checklist and Kindergarten Early Entrance Application to the school at the designated time. The child will then participate in a screening conducted by a Mesa teacher. The screening will cover language and literacy, mathematics, and social/emotional development. A decision will be made upon completion of the screening and parents will be informed within one week. The decision is final and there is no appeal process. Students passing the screening go to step four.
- Step Four: Notification for children that have passed the screening will be provided to the home school office in order for the registration process to proceed. Please remember that early admission to kindergarten will be done on a provisional basis. **If within the first 30 calendar days there is a question as to kindergarten being the most appropriate learning environment for your child, a team may be convened to reconsider this decision. The team's decision will be final.**

If you have any questions about this process, please call Mesa School Public Schools' Curriculum and Instruction Department at 480-472-0340.



Mesa Public Schools
Kindergarten Early Admission Parent Checklist

Child's Name _____ Birthdate _____ M/F (circle)

Parent's Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Mesa School Public Schools is dedicated to educational placement decisions that will best serve the children in our community. As parents requesting an age-exception to kindergarten, we ask that you consider three things as you fill out this checklist:

- 1) Remember that the decision to accept a child as an "exception" will be based on a clear indication that a child exhibits skills in areas of development that will most likely assure a successful kindergarten experience.
- 2) As you focus on each area of development, please think about observations/examples which would give evidence of your child's development in that area.
- 3) Seek additional information from other people regarding your child's strengths and weaknesses (for example: other family members, preschool teachers, friends, etc.).

After completing this checklist, should you decide to pursue an age-exception for your child, you will need to bring this completed checklist with you to the screening appointment at your home school. The screening will be conducted by a certified teacher from the Mesa School Public Schools and you will be informed of the results within one week of the screening. **The decision from the screening process is final; there is no appeal process or retesting.** Please remember that early admission to kindergarten will be done on a provisional basis. **If within the first 30 calendar days there is a question as to kindergarten being the most appropriate learning environment for your child, a team may be convened to reconsider this decision. The team's decision will be final.**

Directions

Please use the following rating scale to mark each area below:

3 = your child is almost always able to do the skill

2 = your child is sometimes able to do the skill

1 = your child is seldom able or not able to do the skill

DK = you do not know if your child is able to do the skill

Section One: Social and Emotional Development

Social and emotional competence has a long-term effect on social and academic success.

Please ask yourself if your child is able to: (Please mark with a 3, 2, 1 or DK)

_____ Separate from family and adjust to new situations

_____ Recognize, express, and manage feelings in a variety of settings

- Verbalize frustrations and problems rather than act out
- Cope appropriately with minor disappointment (no tears, tantrums, aggression)
- Exhibit empathy, think of others

_____ Demonstrate curiosity in new experiences

_____ Demonstrate self-direction and independence

- Sustain attention during a learning task for an extended period of time
- Complete a task with minimal adult assistance
- Choose a self-directed activity and maintain involvement

_____ Use a variety of techniques to resolve conflicts

- Verbalize appropriate suggestions to resolve conflicts
- Seek adult assistance to resolve conflicts

_____ Respect the rights and property of self and others

- Work and play along side other children without conflict
- Share and take turns

_____ Follow rules and routines in a variety of settings

- Understand the need for rules
- Accept consequences of actions
- Sit quietly and listen to stories
- Exhibit patience when waiting for attention

Section Two: Physical Development, Health, and Safety

Physical growth and maturation are critical aspects of overall development. Please ask yourself if your child is able to: (Please mark with a 3, 2, 1 or DK)

_____ Demonstrate competence with a variety of gross motor movements

- Run, gallop, walk backwards, ride a tricycle, jump over objects

_____ Demonstrate competence in gross motor stability

- Bounce a ball
- Throw overhand and catch an object with hands
- Kick a rolling ball
- Pump a swing

_____ Demonstrate competence in fine motor manipulation

- Hold scissors correctly and cut around a picture
- Hold pencil correctly
- Copy and draw simple shapes, letters, and words
- Build with blocks and complete puzzles

_____ Demonstrate independent self-help skills

- Dress self
- Complete toileting routine

_____ Demonstrate independent personal health practices

- Wash hands after toileting and before eating
- Wipe nose as needed
- Cover mouth when sneezing or coughing

Section Three: English Language and Literacy

A basic understanding of the concepts of English language and literacy early in life will help children be prepared for kindergarten and the primary grades. Please ask yourself if your child is able to: (Please mark with a 3, 2, 1 or DK)

_____ Listen attentively and respond appropriately

- Follow a 2 or more step direction
- Listen before responding
- Ask relevant questions
- Answer questions appropriately
- Give personal information when asked (first and last name, age)

_____ Participate in extended conversations

- Initiate and extend a conversation
- Verbally negotiate, plan, problem solve
- Communicate personal experiences, ideas, and feelings

_____ Demonstrate an interest in diverse selection of reading materials

- "Read" books independently (look at books and sees self as a reader)
- Tell stories from pictures
- Seek information from books

_____ Demonstrate knowledge that print conveys a message

- Demonstrate an understanding that letters are grouped to form words
- Demonstrate the knowledge that spoken words can be printed and read

_____ Demonstrate emergent reading skills to explore print and construct meaning

- Recognize print in environment (fast food logos, store names)
- Recognize own name in print
- Recognize highly familiar words/signs (stop, exit, etc.)

_____ Demonstrate knowledge of the alphabet in English

- Recognize and name many letters

_____ Discriminate the sounds of the English language

- Recognize rhyming words in familiar games and songs
- Show awareness of different words that start with the same sound

_____ Demonstrate competence in the use of writing materials

- Write name from memory
- Write some recognizable letters from memory

_____ Engage in literacy activities that promote comprehension

- Retell a story in sequence using props or pictures
- Tell details from a story
- Sing songs, recite poems, and/or nursery rhymes

_____ Create messages by drawing, dictating, and emergent writing

- Create notes or message for a purpose
- Draw recognizable pictures to communicate

Section Four: Mathematics

An understanding of early math concepts provides a way of thinking and problem solving that will prepare children for kindergarten and the primary grades. Please ask yourself if your child is able to: (Please mark with a 3, 2, 1 or DK)

_____ Understand patterns and relationships

- Sort and classify objects and describe how sorted
- Observe a simple pattern and extend it

_____ Explore and discuss shapes

- Name shapes and locate shapes in environment
- Draw shapes
- Compare and describe attributes (small/large, short/long, thin/thick)

_____ Describe spatial relationships by using positional terms (over, under, on, in, out, etc.)

_____ Describe time and sequence

- Associate events with periods of time (after, before)
- Follow, describe, and anticipate a sequence of events

_____ Demonstrate an understanding of numbers and number relationships

- Count how many objects in groups of 5; up to 10
- Match numbers 0-5 to the quantities they represent
- Use one-to-one correspondence to compare two sets
- Rote count to 20 in English

Mesa Public Schools

Kindergarten Early Admission Application

(Please print child's name as it appears on the birth certificate.)

Child's Name _____ Child's Birthdate _____

Parent's Name _____ Home School _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

(Please print child's name as it appears on the birth certificate.)

I am requesting that my child, _____ be screened by Mesa School Public Schools for consideration of early admission into full-day kindergarten. I understand that the screening will be conducted by a certified teacher from Mesa School Public Schools and that I will be informed of the results within one week of the screening. **I also understand that the decision from the screening process is final; there is no appeal process or retesting.** Please remember that early admission to kindergarten will be done on a provisional basis. **If within the first 30 calendar days there is a question as to kindergarten being the most appropriate learning environment for my child, a team may be convened to reconsider this decision. The team's decision will be final.**

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____