



FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents and Caregivers:

Beginning July 1, 2024, a new CT General Statute requires that children need to turn 5 years old on or before September 1 to be automatically eligible for kindergarten. This is a change from the current kindergarten cutoff date of January 1.

However, because of the timing of this change and the challenges this may cause families, Fairfield Public Schools will implement the following transitional plan for the 2024-25 school year:

Any child who is not five years old on or before September 1, 2024, but turns 5 before January 1, 2025, may be admitted to kindergarten upon written request by the child's parent or guardian to the school principal.

The process for early entrance to kindergarten beyond the 2024-25 school year has not been determined and a specific procedure will be forthcoming.

To assist families in making an informed decision, below is a list of Developmental Milestones for children when they turn five years old that has been compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please understand that no two children develop, grow and learn in the same way or at the same pace. However, children do develop in certain predictable ways.

What most children do by the age of five:

Social/Emotional Milestones

- Follows rules or takes turns when playing games with other children
- Sings, dances, or acts
- Does simple chores at home, like matching socks or clearing the table after eating

Language/Communication Milestones

- Tells a story they heard or made up with at least two events. For example, a cat was stuck in a tree and a firefighter saved it
- Answers simple questions about a book or story after you read or tell it to them
- Keeps a conversation going with more than three back-and-forth exchanges
- Uses or recognizes simple rhymes (bat-cat, ball-tall)

Cognitive Milestones (learning, thinking, problem-solving)

- Counts to 10
- Names some numbers between 1 and 5 when you point to them
- Uses words about time, like "yesterday," "tomorrow," "morning," or "night"
- Pays attention for 5 to 10 minutes during activities. For example, during story time or making arts and crafts (screen time does not count)
- Writes some letters in their name
- Names some letters when you point to them

Movement/Physical Development Milestones

- Buttons some buttons independently
- Hops on one foot

If you have any further questions about this process to assist you in making the best decision on behalf of your child, please do not hesitate to contact your child's building principal at your convenience.

Sincerely,