

We know it can be hard deciding between placing your child in a fours class or a pre-k class especially when they have a summer birthday. Here are some things to think about to help make the decision easier.

- Is your child able to verbalize both their wants and needs?
- Can they get themselves dressed?
- Are they fully independent in the bathroom?
- Do they recognize/write their name?
- How do they handle being separated from you?
- Are they able to complete activities on their own?
- How are your child's fine motor skills? Are they able to use scissors, crayons and glue independently?
- Do they know the majority (16/26) of the alphabet?
- Are they able to count and recognize numbers up to 10?
- Have they spent time interacting with other children?
- Are they emotionally mature? Able to express their feelings when they are upset?
- Do they exhibit self-control?
- Can they follow simple 2-3 step instructions?
- Do they respect and understand time limits/routines?
- When do you plan on sending your child to kindergarten?

If your child is able to do most of these things, emotionally mature, and will turn 5 after September 1st, we recommend pre-k. It allows them to have a more rigorous schedule and better prepares them for kindergarten the following year.

However, if your child is still working on their independence and emotional maturity, we recommend placing them in the fours classes and giving them the gift of time with an extra year of preschool. It will set your child up for success when they enter kindergarten by giving them a more solid educational foundation. Rarely are academics a concern when deciding between fours and pre-k. If they are young (late spring-summer birthdays) they may not yet be emotionally mature enough to handle the stressors and independence required of kindergarten.

Sometimes there can be worries that children who enter kindergarten at age six will be bored. Now in elementary schools, there is a great deal of enrichment that takes place in kindergarten classes so as to meet each child where they are at. Each school day is full to the brim with educational activities so those who have had the extra year will not be bored nor will they feel overwhelmed with the higher educational load.

If you have any questions about what would be in the best interest of your child, we are more than happy to discuss this with you.

Below are some helpful articles in deciding where to place your child next year.

<https://www.yourmodernfamily.com/should-i-redshirt-my-kindergartener/>

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/ready-for-kindergarten/>