

SOUTH KITSAP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nurturing Growth • Inspiring Achievement • Building Community

Early Entrance Kindergarten

Early entrance is for children who are able to demonstrate that they have the necessary kindergarten foundation skills and who are functioning at or above the 5 1/2 year age level in all areas including the ability to participate in group instruction. If you choose early entrance testing for your child, tests are given by teacher(s) one on one and last about an hour and a half. The child is tested on fine and motor skills, demonstration of oral language and vocabulary, concepts of book and print, components of early kindergarten essential learnings, and school behaviors.

The parent and child will meet the teacher in the outside breezeway of Mullenix Ridge Elementary School (please arrive on site about 10 minutes before your scheduled appointment time). The parent will remain onsite, in the foyer, outside of the building, or in their car while the teacher(s) conduct the tests with the child. COVID protocols: Masks must be worn by the parents and students, the parents must sign the health check attestation, and there is hand sanitizer on site.

The assessment committee will meet and review the testing data. Information on placement will be e-mailed to the parents within ten business days of the assessment. No make-up tests will be given. Often, we encourage parents to wait until their child is older to enter kindergarten. Many children do better in elementary school when they start later.

Applying for Early Entrance

1. **Watch a required parent/guardian video.** Click [this link](#) to watch the informational video on early kindergarten testing. Please watch this video before the Zoom parent interview (step 3). Information will be presented about early entrance to kindergarten, statistics of success, along with questions and answers with a certificated kindergarten teacher for what to expect through the process of testing, the trial period, and whether EEK is right for your family.
2. **Fill out the EEK Application and Parent Survey and e-mail to Tracy Schneewind, at schneewi@skschools.org** Preschool teachers can use the [Readiness Skills Checklist](#) available on the SKSD website. We understand preschools may be closed and you may not be able to have this form completed.
3. **We will contact you** to schedule a parent interview about EEK.
4. **If you wish to continue to the testing phase, contact the District Office.** Contact Tracy Schneewind at schneewi@skschools.org or 360-874-7058 to come in to pay for testing and schedule a testing time. We will be scheduling testing for May to June.



SOUTH KITSAP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nurturing Growth • Inspiring Achievement • Building Community

5. **Schedule Assessments**. Testing will take approximately one hour. It is important to keep your scheduled appointment. Please arrive 10 minutes before your appointment time. If you bring younger children with you, please bring things to occupy them for the full time. Parent(s) are not allowed in the testing rooms. Parent(s) will need to stay on site. You will be notified within 10 business days if your child passes the assessment.

FAQ -

[What is the birthday cutoff for eligibility for early entrance to kindergarten testing?](#)

Children must turn five between **September 1 and November 1** to participate in the early entrance evaluation.

[What assessment areas are evaluated for Early Entrance to Kindergarten?](#)

- Cognitive—a standardized developmental inventory is used to assess the child's cognitive development, which includes: ability to attend to visual and auditory stimuli and to retrieve information; critical thinking skills; and ability to conceptualize, discriminate, and draw relationships among object features (such as size and shape).
- Fine Motor—a standardized developmental inventory is used to assess the child's fine muscle control and coordination, particularly the small muscles in the arms and hands that allow performance of increasingly complicated tasks such as tracing, cutting, and tying.
- Communication—a standardized developmental inventory is used to assess the child's receptive language (ability to discriminate, recognize, and understand sounds and words, and understanding and use of conversational skills) and expressive language development (use of words to relate information to others, knowledge of and ability to use simple rules of grammar, and use of language as a tool for social contact).
- Perceptual Motor— a standardized developmental inventory is used to measure child's ability to integrate fine motor and perceptual skills for tasks such as stacking blocks, copying geometric shapes, letters, and numbers.
- Social/Emotional—a child's readiness is assessed by information provided on the Parent Questionnaire and the Preschool/Daycare Questionnaire, and by behavior observed during the assessment session.

[How well do children need to score on the assessments to qualify for early entrance?](#)

Early entrance is for children who are able to demonstrate that they have the necessary kindergarten foundation skills and who are functioning at or above the 5 1/2 year age level in all areas including the ability to participate in group instruction. Students must also demonstrate age-appropriate (5-year-old range) social/emotional development.

[Where do I get the application?](#)

You may download an application packet [here](#). For questions, please contact the district office at 360-874-7058.



SOUTH KITSAP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nurturing Growth • Inspiring Achievement • Building Community

When will I know the testing dates?

Families will receive a call to schedule their student's assessment session after a completed application packet and testing fee has been paid. Early entrance evaluations will be scheduled for May or June. Appointments are on a first come, first served basis. Testing will take place at Mullenix Ridge Elementary School located at 3900 Mullenix Road, Port Orchard, WA 98367.

Who does the testing?

The child is individually certificated staff which include a certificated teacher and a specialist.

How long does the assessment session(s) take?

The assessment session lasts approximately one hour. Parents will not be allowed in the testing rooms. Parents must remain on school property the entire time.

What happens if my child cannot complete the assessments?

Children must complete the entire early entrance to kindergarten evaluation on their assigned test date within their allotted assessment period. Incomplete assessments will not be scored. Children who are unable to complete the assessments will not be allowed to complete the evaluation at a later date.

Can my child take the assessment more than once?

Children are not allowed to take the early entrance to kindergarten assessments more than once.

When will I know the results of the testing?

Test results will be e-mailed to parents within 10 business days after the evaluation. If your child passes testing, the neighborhood school will also be notified.

How much does the screening and testing cost?

There is a \$100.00 non-refundable testing fee.

When will I be able to register my child into kindergarten?

You may **not** register your child until he/she has been found eligible through the assessment process. If your child qualifies, your neighborhood school will be notified of your eligibility to enroll. Please make contact with the elementary school within 2 weeks of the eligibility notification.

What if my child doesn't qualify for early entrance to kindergarten?

Entrance criteria are applied equitably to all applicants. Appeals for matters related to problems clearly identified with the testing conditions will be considered. Appeals must be in writing and received by the District Office, attention Anita Chandler within 14 days of the date of the letter notifying parents of results. The findings of the appeals review committee are final and will be sent to the parents/guardians within 30 days.

