

Early Years Education

A guide to Early Years Education for 3 and 4 year olds has been produced by Herefordshire EYDCP Childcare Services and can be obtained by contacting 01432 261681.

What you need to know

If your child is registered with a Herefordshire Doctors Surgery before June 2009 and their Date of Birth is between **01.09.2005** and **31.08.2006** we will have your child details on our database. If you were not registered by the above date or have moved house recently you will need to contact the Admissions Section on 01432 260925/260926. An application form will be sent to you directly. If you have not received an application pack by the end of September 2009 please contact us immediately.

What you need to do

Before completing an application form, you should read the Information for Parents Booklet, especially chapters 3, 4, 5 and

You should use the form to apply for a school place as soon as possible.

Your application should be sent directly to the Admissions Section to address on cover by **15th January 2010** if you wish your child to start in September 2010, January 2011 or April 2011.

If you need any further information please contact the Admissions and Transport Office on 01432 260925/260926

Parent of a Three or Four Year Old?

STARTING SCHOOL

during the School Year starting
September 2010 to August 2011

Important information if your child is four before
September 2010

**Apply on or before
15th January 2010 for all admissions between
September 2010 & August 2011**

Children & Young People's Directorate
PO Box 185
Blackfriars Street
Hereford
HR4 9ZR

**To be read with the
Information for Parents Booklet
2010/2011**

When do I apply for a school place?

There is one date by which parents need to apply for places in the school year September 2010 to August 2011. **This one date is 15th January 2011.**

Even if your child is **not** due to start school until January 2011 or April 2011 **YOU STILL NEED TO APPLY BEFORE 15th JANUARY 2010.** Late applications are always considered, but may have lower priority. See section 4.8 of the Information for Parents Book

Can I apply to any school?

Yes, you can apply for any school maintained by Herefordshire Council. For the school year September 2010 to August 2011, you will have the opportunity to express three individual school preferences on a common application form. You may find it advisable to state the provided school as one of your preferences (please read chapter 4.5 of the Information for Parents Book.

Can I apply to a Primary School within another LA authority if I live in Herefordshire?

Yes, you can apply to another LA for a place at one of their schools. However you must apply on one of Herefordshire's application forms. We will then co-ordinate with that authority.

When can my child start school?

Children are generally **entitled** to start school at the beginning of the term in which they become 5 (all children with birthdays in April can start in January). *Contact schools for details, and **apply before 15th January 2010.***

Could my child start earlier?

It may be **possible** for your child to start school earlier if his/her 5th birthday is between 1st January and 31st August 2010. *You need to contact the school to find out if an earlier start is possible, and **apply on or before 15th January 2010.***

Would my child have to start school earlier?

NO. You could wait until **the term after your child is 5**, without risking the place allocated to your child. Please talk to your preferred school, and **apply on or before 15th January 2010**, so that the place can be reserved.

Do I have to send my child to school before he/she is 5?

NO. Parents are not obliged to take up places for their children any earlier than the law requires (i.e. currently from the term following the 5th birthday). Schools cannot require children to start sooner than parents

wish, If you do wish to defer taking up a place for your child, you are strongly advised to discuss the matter first with the school or with the Pupil Admissions Office, and you must apply by the closing date 15th January 2010

Therefore parents have the option of deferring their child's entry until later in the same school year. The effect is that the place is held for that child and is not available to be offered to another child. The parent would not however be able to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's 5th birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted. If parents wish to defer their child's admission to a later academic year, they will have to reapply during the appropriate admissions round. **This only applies if child as a birth in Summer Term**

How will my child get to school?

You will have to make your own travel arrangements for getting your 4 year old to school at least until the term of his/her 5th birthday. At that stage, there may be transport assistance for the catchment area school, if you live more than 2 or 3 miles away (see chapter 7 of Information for Parents Booklet).

LA Choice Advisor

Within Herefordshire a Choice Advisor has been appointed which offers help and guidance on the schools admissions process. The Choice Advisor can be contacted on 01432 260999