

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 do

You should read the Information for Parents Booklet, especially chapters 3, 4, 6 and 7, before applying for a place.

You should contact your local school to get an application form and full details.

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

Your application should reach the school by **14th January 2005** if you wish your child to start in September 2005, January 2006 or April 2006.

If you need any further information please contact the Admissions and Transport Office on 01432 260924/6 or 383168.

July 2004

Parent of a Three or Four Year Old?

STARTING SCHOOL

during the School Year starting
September 2005

Important information if your child is four before
September 2005

**Apply by
14th January 2005**



**HEREFORDSHIRE
COUNCIL**

Education & Conference Centre
PO Box 185
Blackfriars Street
Hereford
HR4 9ZR

**To be read with the
Information for Parents Booklet
2005/2006**

When do I apply for a school place?

There is **one date** by which parents need to apply for places in the school year that starts in September 2004. This one date is **14th January, 2005**.

Even if your child is **not** due to start school until January 2006 or April 2006 **YOU STILL NEED TO APPLY BEFORE 14th JANUARY 2005**. Late applications are always considered, but they have lower priority.

Can I apply to any school?

Yes, you can apply for any school maintained by Herefordshire Council. For the school year commencing September 2005, you will have the opportunity to express two individual school preferences, equally ranked, on a common application form. You may find it advisable to state the provided school as one of your preferences (please read chapter 4 and paragraph 6.2 of the Information for Parents Booklet).

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 your local school for details*, and **apply before 14th January 2005**.

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 2006. *You need to contact the school to find out if an earlier start is possible*, and **apply before 14th January 2005**.

Would my child have to start school earlier?

NO. You could wait until **the term your child is 5**, without risking the place allocated to your child. Please talk to your preferred school, and **apply by 14th January 2005**, so that the place can be reserved.

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

NO. Your child does not have to start school until the term **after** his/her 5th birthday, though you should still apply by 14th January 2005. You must discuss your wishes with the school first, particularly if your child's 5th birthday is between 1st May and 31st August because your child would normally be placed directly into Year One in September (ie would miss the reception class).

(Remember to apply before 14th January 2005).

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 paragraph 7.1 of Information for Parents Booklet).