Guidance for early years settings – supporting parents/carers who are thinking about deferring/delaying their child’s school start date

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This document has been collated by Early Years and School Improvement Service and Commissioning and Asset Management.

The document has been created to support settings when parents / carers are thinking about deferring their school start date. A revised Schools Admissions code came into place in 2014, enabling parents to request for summer born children to not start school in the September following their fourth birthday.

Introduction
(From DfE document Advice on the admission of summer born children December 2014)

Most children start the school Reception class in the September after their 4th birthday. However some parents / carers may feel their child is not ready to start school at this point. In these circumstances we recommend that parents / carers discuss the matter with their preferred school at the earliest opportunity.

If the parent / carer decides they do not want to take up a reception place in September they may be able to ‘defer’ or ‘delay’ their child’s school date.

a) Deferring

Parents can defer the date at which their child is admitted to school until later in the school year, following their 4th birthday (they cannot defer beyond the point they reach statutory school age).

Children who are born in the summer term can defer their start school date until a full year later (i.e. the following September). If they remain in their school age group, the child would enter year 1 in these circumstances.

b) Delaying

Parents / carers of summer born children can request that their child is admitted outside their age group (i.e. the child would start school in the following year’s reception class). This is described as delaying their start to school.

Where a parent requests that their child is admitted outside their age group (delay), the admission authority must decide whether to approve the request based on the circumstances of the case and the best interests of the child involved. They should also take into account the views of the headteacher involved.

Parents who want to defer their child’s school start date should apply for a school place as usual (i.e. within their age group). As part of their application they should request to defer their child’s school start date.

If it is agreed that a parent is defer their child’s start date, they can remain in their early years placement until compulsory school age, please contact EYcommissioning@northtyneside.gov.uk to discuss funding arrangements.
If you have any queries, please go to the relevant section of the North Tyneside Council website or contact the school admissions team at school.admissions@northtyneside.gov.uk

This document contains all information that parents need when applying for a school place.
Summer Born Children – Guidance on Deferring / Delaying Entry for a full year

If a parent wants to defer entry to school, thereby their child would stay at your setting for all of the Reception year and go straight into Year 1, the year after.

- If parents express a desire for their child to remain at your setting (instead of entering a Reception class,) please ensure that they know that they need to discuss this with the school admissions team.
- Parents must apply for a school place within the child’s normal year group. (eg for the September after the child’s fourth birthday). Please ensure that parents understand this as failure to apply may mean that they won’t get a place at their school of choice.
- Parents must request to defer the child’s place and start school to the beginning of Year 1.
- We suggest that the setting recommends that parents visit their school/s of choice and discuss deferment with the headteacher/s before requesting this as part of their school application.
- If a child attends more than one setting, it is essential to still have these conversations. Do not assume the other setting is doing this.

If a parent wants a summer born child to be admitted outside their age group, thereby their child would stay at your setting for the following year and start in Reception, the year after. (The child would be out of age group)

- If parents express a desire for their child to remain at your setting (therefore entering Reception class a year later,) please ensure that they know that they need to inform the school admissions team. This is known as a delay.
- Parents must apply for a school place within the child’s normal year group. (eg for the September after the child’s fourth birthday). Please ensure that parents understand this, as failure to apply may mean that they won’t get a place at their school of choice.
- Parents must request to delay the child’s place and start school in Reception at the beginning of the following school year.
- We suggest that the setting recommends that parents visit their school/s of choice and discuss delaying a place with the headteacher/s before requesting as part of their school application.
- If a child attends more than one setting, it is essential to still have these conversations. Do not assume the other setting is doing this.

General guidance

- Ensure that all parents know that they need to apply for a school place. Refer them to the online admissions process (see link at the top of this document)
- Ensure that parents understand how to do this and are able to complete an application. Do they need a translator? Are they visually impaired? Do they have the relevant literacy skills?
- If it is agreed that a child is going to enter school in Year 1, (missing the Reception Year,) the setting will have statutory responsibility for submitting Early Years
Foundation Stage Profile data in the following summer. Please contact maddy.kennedy@northtyneside.gov.uk on 0191 6438540, as soon as possible so that information about EYFSP can be shared, including training.

- This document is a useful read.
- The Early Years and School Improvement Service (including the Ready for School Improvement Officers) will be able to advise and support with a relevant curriculum for children who stay in your setting.
- If a child is intending to defer or delay their school start date please contact EYcommissioning@northtyneside.gov.uk to discuss early years funding.