

Williamsburg Christian Academy Philosophy of Admissions to Kindergarten

Williamsburg Christian Academy does not require September 30th as the mandatory cut-off birth date for admission to kindergarten. However, WCA has the honor and responsibility of looking at each individual student carefully. Through testing, observation and parental input, we determine the readiness of the student for the challenges of our kindergarten program. Since the admissions decision affects the student for the rest of his or her school career, it is vital that it be made carefully and wisely.

WCA considers five important factors in determining whether a child is prepared for WCA's kindergarten program:

Academic Readiness: We look at academic readiness. We seek recommendations from the student's pre-school teacher. We test the language, math and fine motor abilities of the student. We ask for parental input.

Attention/Self-Control: We look at the ability of the entering student to control his or her behavior and to follow directions concerning behavior given by the teacher. We look at whether the child can sit and listen to a fifteen-to-twenty minute lesson and pay attention. We look at whether a child can receive instruction from a teacher and then independently follow those instructions. We ask if a student can work until a project or assignment is completed.

Motor Skills: We look at large and fine motor coordination of each entering student. Are we asking the student to do something that he or she simply does not have the developed physical capability to do?

Social Interaction: We try to learn more about the student's ability to interact with his or her peers. Can he or she share? Can he or she take turns and not expect to be first in everything? Can he or she learn to raise a hand to speak and honor those who are speaking by listening to them?

Gender: Finally, we look at the gender of our applicants. Research has shown that a young boy's brain develops differently than the brain of a young girl. The type of tasks required in an elementary program are often those that girls find easier to complete.

Our primary goal in placing a child in our kindergarten is to put him or her in a place where he or she will be challenged, but not overwhelmed. It is to be a placement that allows success, not boredom or frustration. It is to be a placement that allows a student to be successful not only with math and reading, but also with learning to get along with other children and adults, and to cooperate as part of a group.

If our investigation reveals that a student is prepared for kindergarten in the five ways mentioned, we are pleased to offer admission. However, if there is significant doubt that there will be success in all areas of the kindergarten program, we will ask that a child wait a year to enroll. The gift of time is often the best decision we could have made for some of our students.

Childhood should be a "journey, and not a race." Part of that childhood journey occurs during the hours that your child is in school.

Slowing down a bit and making a child's early years a journey, rather than a race, will pay big dividends in that child's future!.

Jane Vaught
Head of Elementary
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