

STEPS TO TAKE

The following article provides administrators, teachers and parents with possible alternative action steps to holding children out of kindergarten.



Included in the hard copy version of this packet is the article *Academic Redshirting and Young Children* by Lilian G. Katz from ERIC Digest November 2000 which can be found at <http://www.ericdigests.org/2001-3/young.htm>

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Redshirting, Retention and Transition Alternatives

Alternatives to redshirting, retention and transition include —

- **Mixed-age classes** that allow children to progress at their own pace.
- **A curriculum that is both age and individually appropriate for each child.**
- **All day kindergarten** that is developmentally and individually appropriate and that provides children additional time in school without adding an extra year to normal school progression.
- **Individualized instruction** that is tailored to meet the needs of individual children.
- **Parent/caregiver assistance programs** that not only involve children's caregivers and families with schools, but also provide assistance in helping children with homework and study habits.
- **Recognizing and valuing differences among children**, rather than striving for homogeneity in classroom placements.
- **Using tests appropriately** to design and evaluate curriculum that meets the needs of each child, rather than to make placement decisions which involve removing children from the regular classroom.
- **Reducing class size** to allow for increased individual instruction.

All children, regardless of skill level, achievement, culture, social class, or background, deserve the right to be educated with peers and to follow normal school progression. Schools must begin concentrating on meeting children's needs in the classroom, rather than penalizing children with ineffective programming that removes them from higher-achieving and more socially mature peers and that adds an additional year to their normal school progression.

From Carlson, L., & Galle, L. (2000). Alternatives to kindergarten retention and transition placement. *Fact Find*. Minneapolis, MN: Center for Early Education and Development. Retrieved June 16, 2004, from <http://cehd.umn.edu/CEED/publications/briefsandreports/factfind/ff2000.htm>



Are They Ready for Kindergarten? The Pros and Cons of Redshirting Young Children

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Other Resources

Articles & Books

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***These resources can be borrowed from:**

KITS Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC)

2601 Gabriel, Parsons, KS 67357

620-421-6550 ext. 1651

email: resourcecenter@ku.edu

They can also be checked out online at kskits.org/ecrc

