**Pre-school Admissions Guide**

Although pre-school isn't compulsory it has benefits. Our guide will help you understand more about the process and what to expect when applying for a place in pre-school for your child.

**Applying for a funded Pre-School Place**

If your child is born on or between**2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018**they will be in their **final pre-school year (Target Age).**  You can apply to a Nursery School; a Nursery Unit in a Primary School; or a Voluntary/Private playgroup provider.

**Penultimate (Underage)**: - If funded places are still available after target age children are admitted then penultimate children born on or between **2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019** may also be admitted.  You can **only** apply to a Nursery School or a Nursery Unit in a Primary School.

**The Citizen Portal for online applications opens at 12.00 noon on 7 January 2021 and closes at 12.00 noon on 29 January 2021 for September 2021 admissions.**

* Places are **not** allocated on a first come, first served basis.
* Before you start your application find out more information about the pre-schools you are interested in applying to by reading the admissions criteria.
* The Admissions Helpdesk 028 9598 5595 will be available for digital assistance.
* If you do not apply before the closing date/time of **12.00 noon on Friday 29 January 2021**, your application will be treated as a late application.
* If you are unable to apply online, paper applications will **only** be available on request from the Education Authority Pre-School Admissions Office.
* **For further information/guidance please view the Pre-School Admissions User Guide below.  This guide includes information on Socially Disadvantaged circumstances.**

**Contents of this guide**

* [Pre-School Preferences](https://www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides/pre-school-admissions-guide/pre-school-preferences)
* [Socially Disadvantaged Circumstances](https://www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides/pre-school-admissions-guide/socially-disadvantaged-circumstances)
* [Late Applications](https://www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides/pre-school-admissions-guide/late-applications)
* [Change of Preference](https://www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides/pre-school-admissions-guide/change-of-preference)
* [How and when will I be notified of placement?](https://www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides/pre-school-admissions-guide/how-and-when-will-i-be-notified-of-placement)
* [Applying for a Reception place in the school year September 2021 - June 2022](https://www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides/pre-school-admissions-guide/applying-for-a-reception-place-in-the-school-year)
* [Start your application](https://www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides/pre-school-admissions-guide/start-your-application-0)
* [How do I apply for a funded Pre-School place in this current school year (September 2020 – June 2021)?](https://www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides/pre-school-admissions-guide/how-do-i-apply-for-a-funded-pre-school-place-in-this)

**Download the Full Pre-School Admissions Guide**

[**Full Pre-School Admissions Guide**](https://www.eani.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-12/Website%20information%20Pre-School%20Parent%202021-2022.pdf)

**Welcome from the Director of Admissions**

**We are so pleased that you are considering The Center for Early Education for your child and family.**

At The Center, our mission guides everything that we do. We work to ultimately graduate students who are joyful, resilient, life-long learners and we never forget about the importance of each day of this wonderful journey! Our philosophy combines a nurturing, inclusive learning environment with an increasingly challenging academic program that addresses the developmental needs of each child. We cannot wait to get to know your family and introduce you to our program and community.  
  
Embarking on an admissions process is a big deal. We know that families experience this process in many different ways. As parents in the school search, while we research, think and write about our children, consider our family’s deepest values, create spreadsheets, explore websites, talk with friends and teachers, map out distances, examine viewbooks, and attend events, what we’re really doing is dreaming about our children’s future, next year and many years down the road. We’re finding a school and a community that we admire, trust, love, and are excited to partner with in raising our children. Our team is looking forward to being by your side in this process.

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**Katrina Lappin**

Director of Admissions

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**Lindsay Watson**

Assistant Dir. of Admissions

Clearly, 2020-21 is a different kind of a year which will impact the admissions process for application to 2021-22. Schools like The Center are working hard to care for their communities and educate their students through an ever-changing landscape. We’re proud of our faculty, support staff and administrators who pivoted quickly to provide [remote learning experiences](https://www.centerforearlyeducation.org/page/covid-19) to our entire student body in Spring 2020 and we cannot wait for an eventual return to the in-person learning that we know and love. While no school can definitively say what the 2020-21 school year will look like from start to finish, due to constantly evolving guidelines and environment, I know that our approach will always put children, families, and teachers first and will be based on health guidelines and our core values of Responsibility, Caring, Inclusion, and Honesty.

This year’s admissions process may ask all of us to be flexible in our thinking. Our admissions process is outlined [here](https://www.centerforearlyeducation.org/page/admissions/admissions-process) and we’ve worked to create opportunities for prospective families to safely learn about our program, community, and [our campus](https://www.centerforearlyeducation.org/page/admissions/our-campus). Parent interviews will be conducted virtually this year. Based on the most recent health information, we will make a determination by December 15 of whether Kindergarten Screenings and Elementary Visits/Screenings (in January and February) will be virtual or in-person. While these unknowns can add another layer to an already complex process, I hope you’ll let us know how we can support you.

Our comprehensive admissions viewbook will be emailed to all applicants. In the meantime, we invite you to explore our website to learn more about [The Center’s program](https://www.centerforearlyeducation.org/page/academics/childrens-programs), [philosophy](https://www.centerforearlyeducation.org/page/about/about-cee), [community](https://www.centerforearlyeducation.org/page/school-life/school-life), and [admissions process](https://www.centerforearlyeducation.org/page/admissions/admissions-process) and to call or email us at any time with questions.

We’re looking forward to getting to know and partner with your family over the coming year!