



K.I.D.S.
KAUAI INDEPENDENT DAYCARE SERVICES, INC.
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January 15, 2014

TO: GG Weisenfeld, Ed.D., Director
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In response to your visit to KIDS School on December 16, 2013.

Transition Process for 2014 Kindergarten Entrance (chart included)

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, children entering public school in Hawaii will be required to be 5 years old by July 31st for entrance into kindergarten. This will bring us in line with mainland schools which consist of mixed ages in a grade level. Example: first graders are older 6's and younger 7's. In Hawaii our cut-off date had been age 5 by December 31st for all children entering Kindergarten. So our grade levels had been Kindergarten, 5 years old, 1st graders, 6 years old, 2nd graders 7 years old, etc.

In order to make this change happen, beginning in 2014, children entering kindergarten will need to be 5 years old by July 31st of the year they enter. This will include only the children whose birthdates fall within January 1st to July 31st therefore the class will consist of approximately half the number of children as in previous classes. The younger children born in the months of August 1st to December 31st will wait until the following year when they will be eligible to enter Kindergarten. This small (1/2 size class) will continue to be a small class as they progress through the grades.

At K.I.D.S. School (Kauai Independent Daycare Services, Inc.) we began preparing for this transition in 2012-2013 school year. Knowing that this would be a big change for our staff, teachers and parents we first initiated a gradual "mindset" change by renaming our groups. Throughout the year, we referred to the 3 year old groups as Pre-school groups, the 4 year old groups were called the Pre-Kindergarten groups in preparation for the mixed grouping of children we would transition into for the 2014 deadline.

Over the years we have frequently combined a few young born 4's – usually boys – into a 3 years old group where they were more compatible socially, emotionally, cognitively and also fill our enrollment needs. With the renaming of our 3 & 4 year old groups we are now able to place more of these young fours with older three year olds and group them as Preschoolers. The mixed Preschoolers then move up and become younger 5's

(born August 1st – December 31st) and older fours (born January 1st – July 31st) in the renamed Pre-Kindergarten groups. In turn, the following year 2015, the Pre-Kindergarten groups will transition into the D.O.E.'s first mixed Kindergarten class.

Being mindful of the upcoming age change for Kindergarten we began addressing the new law at our September 2013 parent orientation meeting. During our seven evening Parenting Class meetings in January and February 2013, we continued to share what the effects of this new law would have on their children. During our registration process in February of 2013, we began to explain to all new parents as they were contacted, about the new law and what it would mean for their child based on their birthdate.

Some families in order to comply with age changes, chose to place their child at K.I.D.S. School for three years. Also, K.I.D.S. School must maintain an enrollment of 81 children. Therefore, if there is space available and the parents are willing to finance their child for 3 years, we have the ability to do so. The variables are: child's ability and social/emotional maturity, amount of available space and parent input. We are able to be flexible. This paved the way for parents and staff to understand and accept our mixed age group of the Preschoolers beginning August 1st, 2013.

There is NO need for a separate program for 5 year olds as they are now combined with their peers, the older 4's, and they become Pre-K groups. They learn the same things and they graduate from Pre-Kindergarten the same time and they are the new Kindergarteners, mixed together in Hawaii's new mixed-ages public school classes.

K.I.D.S. School can easily accommodate the young 5 year olds into its unique program. We have a Learning Center module where over 200 individual learning tasks are set up systematically and developmentally, in 4 different levels, from the simplest to the more difficult. Each child experiences and masters the different levels of learning tasks at his or her own individual pace. Whether a child attends K.I.D.S. for 2 or 3 years or is a late born 5 year old, there is always the opportunity for more learning and deeper understanding of basic concepts. The remaining 5 large modules offer many types of play for a child during each day as they rotate from play module to play module every 30 minutes in preparation for Kindergarten. The secondary curriculum, based upon integrated themes, also changes weekly. Therefore a child can continuously receive a stimulating and varied experience at their own rate and level of learning.

We are looking forward to the new law being implemented. The benefits for late born children will be seen as we continue to work through this new way of grouping the children. We hope that our way of handling this will be helpful to other preschools. If there are any questions or clarification, please don't hesitate to call us, 1-808-822-0262 on Kauai. Check out our website as well: www.kidskauai.org or email: pkunimura@aol.com.



**K.I.D.S.
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TRANSITION PROCESS FOR 2014 KINDERGARTEN ENTRANCE**

Group or grade	3yr. olds	4 year Olds	Kdg. 5yrs Old	1 st grade 6 yr old	2nd grade 7yr old	3rd grade 8yr old
Re-Named:	Pre-School	Pre-Kdg.	By Dec. 31st			
SCHOOL YEAR 2012-2013	3 years by Sept 1 st & a few young 4 yr olds began referring to this group as pre-school group.	4 years by Dec. 31 st & referred to this group as pre-kindergarten	Children 5 years old by Dec. 31 st	Children 6 years old by Dec. 31 st	Children 7 years old by Dec. 31 st	Children 8 years old by Dec. 31 st
2013-2014	Cut-off date for older 3's <u>July 31st</u> and younger 4's (born August - December)	Mostly all older 4's born Jan - Aug 1 st & a late born 5's	Children 5 years old by Dec. 31 st	Children 6 years old by Dec. 31 st	Children 7 years old by Dec. 31 st	Children 8 years old by Dec. 31 st
2014-2015	Older 3's (Jan - July Born) & Younger 4's (Aug - Dec Born)	Older 4's (Jan - July Born) Young Born 5's (Aug - Dec) & PRE-KINDERGARTEN Older 4's & Younger 5's	½ Group Born Jan - July 31 st SMALL GROUP of 5 year olds.	Children 6 years old by Dec. 31 st	Children 7 years old by Dec. 31 st	Children 8 years old by Dec. 31 st
2015-2016	PRE-SCHOOL Age Older 3's & Younger 4's mixed age group (Compatible)	PRE-KINDERGARTEN Older 4's & Younger 5's	5 yr olds born (Jan - Dec) (<u>Older Children</u>) & 6 yr olds (younger Aug - Dec) MIXED	Children 6 years old born Jan - July SMALL GROUP	Children 7 years old by Dec. 31 st	Children 8 years old by Dec. 31 st
2016-2017	PRE-SCHOOL Age Older 3's & Younger 4's	PRE-KINDERGARTEN Older 4's & Younger 5's	Older 5's Younger 6's	Older 6's Younger 7's MIXED GROUP BY AGES	SMALL GROUP 7 yr. Olds Older Born Jan - July	Children 8 years old by Dec. 31 st

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