

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

To ensure the earliest infusion of Catholic values, which speak to the developmental, needs of the young child and to provide for continued enrollment in our schools, we strongly encourage the establishment of pre-K and Kindergarten programs and reaffirm the continuation of existing ones. We further support the concept of kindergarten as a pre-requisite for admission to first grade.

We encourage local administrators to establish an entry age for kindergarten and/or first grade to coincide with the public school district in which the school is situated. (cf. Policy 5112). To determine the developmental age of each individual child at the kindergarten level, a screening device selected by the school may be used chiefly as a guide for determining appropriate group placement. The instrument should not be used to deny admission of a child to the school.

The Early Childhood program should support a discovery approach to learning. It should be child-oriented addressing the spiritual, intellectual, physical, psychological, emotional and social needs of the child.

Policy adopted:  
March 17, 1992

NCD/Bishop of Harrisburg