Policy and Practice on School Starting Age

Keith M Lewin
Age of Entry to School
The Issues and Some Evidence

- Why is the Age of Admission to School Important?
- What are national and International Patterns for the Age of Admission to School?
- What are Patterns of Preschool?
- What are the Characteristics of Overage Children?
- Does Age of Entry Affect Achievement?
- Policy Issues on Age of Entry
# 12 Reasons Why Age of Admission is Important

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lower ages of admission lead to more time to learn before leaving school</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Late entry of children is correlated with lower performance</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Cognitive maturation benefits from systematic stimulation at young ages</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Gaps in performance linked to socio economic class grow with late entry</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Age differences within a grade are associated with gaps in performance</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Mono grade curricula are designed for single age cohorts</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Staggered entry ages can reduce age in grade differences</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Registration processes should not delay admission</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Admission age should be linked to preschool provision</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>The probability of aver enrolling reduces with age</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Age of entry is linked to age of completion of compulsory education</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>School admission age is a determinant of costs and sustainable financing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Compulsory Education

Age of Entry

Age of Entry and Years of School
Age of Entry, Length of Primary School and Length of Compulsory Schooling CEE/CIS

Albania
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Estonia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Montenegro
Poland
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovak Republic
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Ukraine
Turkev
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Georgia
Azerbaijan
Armenia
Uzbekistan
 Turkmenistan
Tajikistan

Age
Entry
Primary Length
Compulsory
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Attendance in Pre School by Household Wealth

Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2006

Tajikistan, 2005

Azerbaijan, 2000

Kyrgyzstan, 2005

Kazakhstan, 2006

Albania, 2000

Uzbekistan, 2006

Republic of Moldova, 2000

Serbia, 2005

Mongolia, 2005

Georgia, 2005

Ukraine, 2005

Belarus, 2005
Children 2 or More Years Over Age by Social Group

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Mongolia, 2005

Republic of Moldova, 2005

Montenegro, 2005

Serbia, 2005

Georgia, 2005

Turkey, 2003

Albania, 2008

Azerbaijan, 2006

Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2006

Kyrgyzstan, 2005

Ukraine, 2007

Belarus, 2005

Tajikistan, 2005

Armenia, 2010

Kazakhstan, 2006

Uzbekistan, 2006
Performance of August and September Children in UK Does Age within Class Matter?

Does When You are Born Matter?

Source: Crawford C, Deasrden L, Greaves I

Nuffield Foundation Report

MCS = Millennium Cohort Study
ALSPAC = Avon Longitudinal Study
LSYPE = Longitudinal Study of Young People
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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Policy Opportunities</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Review admission age policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Identify responsibilities for age appropriate enrolment</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Support child seeking schools</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Register all children and review/issue birth certificate</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Ensure there are no financial barriers to registration and admission</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Publicise admission dates and adapt to seasonalities</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Provide two or three admission dates each year</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Provide at least one year of pre school for every child</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Review epidemiology linked to non enrolment and treat causes</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Institutionalise child identity and child tracking systems</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Introduce learning management systems that minimise repetition</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Decrease the age of admission where it is 7 years, increase the length of short compulsory education systems</td>
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