

(Enclosure No. 2 to DepEd Order No. 5, s. 2016)

**CLARIFICATION ON THE ENLISTMENT OF
CHILDREN BELOW FIVE (5) YEARS OLD BY JUNE 1**

This is to clarify the provision in the paragraph 1.b of DepEd Order No. 16 s. 2015 which states that only children who are 5 years old by June 1 may be admitted to Kindergarten starting June 2016 and onwards. The age appropriateness of the curriculum will be lost if children who are younger than five years old are admitted to the Kindergarten program.

The Kindergarten curriculum is intended to help children who are at least 5 years old to acquire the values, attitudes and competencies that are known to enable successful and beneficial participation in school learning experiences. It is designed on the bases of the prevailing understanding about developmentally appropriate expectations¹ and on how children who are at least five years old learn and develop². As such, the assumptions are drawn from the understanding of children and childhood according to all areas of growth, namely psychomotor, socio-emotional, language, cognitive and spiritual³.

If children who will turn 5 within the month of June are recommended for admission, then the school head should secure written permission from the Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) to admit these children into Kindergarten.

¹ Whitebread, D. And Coltman, P.. (2015). Teaching and learning in the early grades. New York: Routledge.

“Evidence from research show that children who start formal school too early may encounter difficulties in meeting the content and performance standards across all developmental domains, and experience unnecessary stress that may lead to long-term negative effects such as poor self-esteem, loss of motivation to learn and mental health problems.”

² UNICEF (2012). School readiness: a conceptual framework. New York: United Nation Children’s Fund Education Section.

³ Revised Philippine Early Childhood Development Checklist Manual. Pasig. Department of Education Bureau of Elementary Education Curriculum Development Division.

The Revised Philippine Early Childhood Development Checklist Manual shows the range of behaviours that children from the ages of 3.1 to 5.11 can do in the various domains of development. The differences between what a 5 year old child can do from what those who are below 5 can do are markedly different especially in the social-emotional domain.