

The Littlest Redshirts Sit Out Kindergarten-NY Times

Description

Interesting articleâ€”I have child who is one of the oldest in the class and one child who is the youngest in the class. My daughter started kindergarten at age 6 (late July birthday) and is one of the oldest in her class. My son, on the other hand, entered DK at age 4 (mid-July birthday). He was the youngest in the class and entered kindergarten at age 5 and was the youngest in kindergarten too. So far, so good for both of my kids. I relied on my preschool director for guidance on this issue.

CULTURAL STUDIES

The Littlest Redshirts Sit Out Kindergarten

By PAMELA PAUL

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AFTER all the tentative early childhood rituals â€” the flashcards, the Kumon, the Dora the Explorer, the mornings spent in cutting-edge playgrounds â€” who wouldnâ€™t want to give their children a head start when itâ€™s TIME to set off for school?

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Stephanie Diani for The New York Times

Suzanne Collier opted for a â€œtransitionalâ€ year for John, 5, rather than kindergarten.

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ner than send her 5-year-old son, John, to kindergarten this year, the 36-year-old rolled him in in a “transitional” kindergarten “without all the rigor.” Heâ€™s 10, “and not quite ready to focus on a full day of classroom work.” Citing a Point about Canadian hockey players, which found that the strongest players were “older, heâ€™ll have the strongest chance to do the best.”

thought, and it is not new. “Redshirting” of kindergartners “the term comes from the participation of college athletes in competitive games” became increasingly common, and shows no signs of waning.

In 2008, the most recent year for which census data is available, 17 percent of children were 6 or older when they entered the kindergarten classroom. Sand tables have been replaced by worksheets to a degree thatâ€™s surprising even by the standards of a decade ago. Blame it on [No Child Left Behind](#) and the race to get children “ready” by third grade: Kindergarten has steadily become, as many educators put it, “the new first grade.”

What once seemed like an aberration “something that sparked fierce dinner party debates” has come to seem like the norm. But that doesnâ€™t make it any easier for parents.

“We agonized over it all year,” said Rachel Tayse Baillieul, a food educator in Columbus, Ohio, where the cutoff date is Oct. 1. Children whose birthdates fall later must wait until the next year to start school. But her daughter, Lillian, 4, was born five days before, on Sept. 25, which would make her one of the youngest in the class.

To read the rest of the article, click [here](#).

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