



Dear Mum and Dad,

I was born after March so please carefully consider my readiness for school next year before enrolling me.

Remember that the legal starting age for school is 6 year of age.

Remember that I may be a whole year younger than children who start next year, and I may not have the social and academic skills necessary to compete with these children.

These things may not show up until the latter years of schooling and the decision you make will affect my entire life and attitude to learning. Please give this matter some serious thought.

I may seem safe and well catered for in the Infants Department but things may not be so rosy if I have to repeat and be left behind while my friends move on. Repetition is a potentially devastating experience and is not a "fix-up" for early-age problems.

When I go to High School I will be with children much older than me - many of them may be much more worldly, and I may not cope socially or academically. There is no reward for being the youngest jobless person in the country.

Don't be too hasty to get rid of me please.

TO COPE WITH SCHOOL I need to be self-confident and have a positive self-image, not just at home where everything is familiar, but also in a large group situation.

I NEED TO BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE FREELY and be verbally understood. I also need to be able to follow compound directions.

I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE on any activity for a set amount of time.

I HAVE TO BE INDEPENDENT and be able to care for myself - toileting, dressing and taking care of my belongings.

I ALSO HAVE TO HAVE SOCIAL SKILLS - being able to deal with frustration, anger, being able to co-operate, respect others and their belongings and to share.