Orthophonie VoxLingue Speech and Language

Printable sheet

Registration year checklist: from fall to the first day for a child born in summer or September with language difficulties

Kindergarten at 5 or wait a year? The admission rules are precise. For language, the useful question is: where will your child get the most support next year?

The rules in Québec

- **Kindergarten at 5 (K5):** a child is admitted if they are 5 by September 30. It isn't compulsory.
- **Waiting a year:** at 6 by September 30, a child is admitted to grade 1, not kindergarten.
- **Compulsory school:** from the school year after the one in which the child turns 6 (the school year starts July 1).

The late-entry dérogation

To stay in kindergarten at 6. **An exceptional measure**, decided by the school service centre, with a psychologist's or psychoeducator's report **paid by the parents**. Procedure and dates: check with your school service centre or board.

The timeline (exact dates vary by service centre)

1. **Fall**
   daycare, CLSC, speech-language pathologist; dérogation procedure
2. **January to March**
   registration, generally
3. **Spring**
   the reports you choose to share
4. **September**
   staying in touch with the teacher

Questions to ask

- What services does the school offer in kindergarten, and how soon?
- Is there a school speech-language pathologist?
- What does the educator see in the group?
- What changes at the CLSC when school starts?

For language

- Language counts more than age in the first year (Norbury, 2016)
- A year of waiting without support doesn't resolve a language difficulty
- Younger doesn't mean struggling

Don't wait for the decision to get help

If your child's language worries you: **contact the CLSC or ask the doctor** (Agir tôt, free, under 7, until school entry). At the same time, a private speech therapy consultation if you can. An assessment informs the decision without making it for you.

Sources: Québec Education Act, ss. 13 and 14, and Basic school regulation, s. 12, as quoted by the ministère de l'Éducation; Québec.ca, Kindergarten (2026), Registration (2025), Dérogation (2025), Agir tôt (2026); Norbury et al. (2016). **General information: this sheet replaces neither an assessment nor legal advice.**