

Why children must not start school till age 6

Kids Who Delay Kindergarten Have Higher Self-Control

Chris Weller

There's already a great deal of research suggesting children should start their school days later. Now, new research finds they should probably start their entire school careers later, too.

A study out of Stanford University has found kids whose parents waited to enroll them in kindergarten by age 6 (instead of 5) had measurably better scores on tests of self-control by the time they were 7 and 11.

Self-control — known to psychologists as “executive function” — is one of the more impor-

tant traits kids can possess in their early years. A strong degree of executive function signals kids are able to budget their time and maintain focus even when they're faced with distractions.

In the latest study, investigators Thomas Dee and Hans Henrik Sievertsen used the Danish National Birth Cohort (DNBC) study to collect their data.

The DNBC included responses from 54,241 parents on measures of mental health when their children were 7 years old and 35,902 responses when the kids were 11.

Dee and Sievertsen found kids who started kindergarten



BABY STEPS: In Finland, children begin formal schooling at age of eight

a year later than average students had 73% better scores on tests of their hyperactivity and inattention four years later.

Schools in Nordic countries aren't exactly strangers to enrolling kids in school later

in life. In Finland, for example, it isn't uncommon for kids to begin formal schooling at age of eight. Much of their childhood is spent either at home or in a form of pre-kindergarten. BUSINESSINSIDER

Separated partners using apps to co-parent their kids

Olivia Blair

A range of smartphone applications are helping separated couples to seamlessly co-parent their children.

Gill Ruidant founded the app 2houses in 2011 after struggling to have productive conversations about childcare with his ex when they divorced nine years ago. He says the app is now used by 100,000 families. “I quickly noticed that direct and phone conversations were generating conflict,” he told The Independent. “For the well-being of our son, my ex and I were looking for a go-between to help us organising the

custody calendar, keep track of shared expenses and share school and medical information. We tested a few existing tools, were not very satisfied as it was not focused on our specific needs, as separated parents. Ruidant soon quit his job and launched the app.

Flavia Fraser-Cannon relies on the trusty Google calendar app to co-parent her three-year-old son with her ex-partner. Fraser-Cannon, who also communicates with her ex through WhatsApp when discussing pick-ups and drop-offs, says she imagines co-parenting to be “nightmarish” without the help of their calendar app. THE INDEPENDENT