

Considerations for Starting College BEFORE the Age of 13

Your child may have the intellectual ability to handle higher level material, but is she really ready to attend college? Place an “X” next to each statement, which you can answer with a “yes”.

- Can your child sit quietly during a 50 – 75-minute lecture?
- Can your child selectively contribute during class, rather than volunteer an answer every time a question is asked?
- Can your child handle being wrong in front of a group without “melting down”?
- Can your child respectfully participate in a group conversation, allowing and encouraging others to contribute to the discussion?
- Can your child maturely handle criticism and/or conflicting opinions during a conversation?
- Does your child have the motor skills necessary for note taking during class?
- Does your child have the writing skills necessary to independently produce college-level lab reports and essays?
- Does your child have the organizational skills necessary to track assignments and meet deadlines without your assistance and/or oversight?
- Has your child learned to self-advocate, accommodate and/or self-monitor learning issues associated with a learning disability?
- Can your child moderate his/her sensitivities in order to fully participate in dissections or certain discussions that relate to social justice, such as the death penalty?
- Can your child deal with the positive and negative attention that comes from being the “smart, cute kid” on campus?
- Will you, as a parent, be okay with your child watching an R-rated movie and/or participating in a classroom discussion on a topic, such as abortion or sexual orientation, which may conflict with your family beliefs?

If you answered “yes” to 8 or more of the above statements, early college is a viable educational opportunity worth exploring for your pre-adolescent. If, however, you found yourself negotiating, in your mind, how you could answer “yes” to certain questions, you may want to speak with an educational consultant for an outside opinion on early college readiness.