Date

**RE: Son/Daughter NAME DOB: month, day, year**

 **EDC: month, day, year**

To Whom It May Concern:

My son/daughter is eligible to start Junior Kindergarten at your school this coming September. I would like to share supporting information for your consideration.

My child is a former preterm infant who was born at \_\_\_\_\_ weeks gestation (\_\_\_\_ weeks early) with a birth weight of \_\_\_\_\_ grams.

As you may already know, children delivered early are at risk for a wide range of developmental outcomes and as a preterm survivor, my child receives ongoing growth and developmental assessments in the Neonatal Follow-up Clinic at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

Preterm survivors often present with a neurodevelopmental profile of social emotional immaturity, challenges with language development, visual spatial relationships, motor coordination, and difficulties with executive function and cognition such as hyperactivity, inattention, and challenges with task persistence and transitions.

My child is a lovely little boy/girl who is now medically stable. Currently, my child attends a centre-based preschool on a full-time basis and they have thrived in this structured learning environment.

I have discussed my concerns about my child’s readiness for school with the preschool and the Neonatal Follow Up Clinic. It is my understanding that alternate arrangements for school entry have been made for other preterm survivors that may mitigate some of the risks common to the preterm survivor (as outlined above). These arrangements are:

1. **Delay entry to school (enter school based on due date rather than actual birth date).** Based on my child’s chronological birth date of \_\_\_\_\_, they are eligible to enroll in Junior Kindergarten for \_\_\_\_\_\_. As my child was born preterm, their actual date of birth and their expected date of birth fall in different calendar years. Given the known developmental challenges that preterm survivors may face, it may be appropriate in some circumstances to acknowledge the child by their expected date of birth when considering entry to school. Should my child enter Junior Kindergarten based on corrected rather than chronological age, this arrangement would only be useful if the following two criteria are met: (a) My child fully completes two years at the Kindergarten level; that is both Junior and Senior Kindergarten before transitioning to Grade 1. (b) My child continues in a full-time preschool for another year until they enter Junior Kindergarten.
2. **Complete three years of school at the Kindergarten level.** Should my child start school this coming September, some of the risks to preterm survivors as outlined above can be mitigated by repeating a year of kindergarten.
3. **Accommodate my child’s entry to school with a smaller student to teacher ratio.** Should my child start school this September, a smaller student to teacher ratio may be better suited for their needs. I understand that this arrangement would involve a formal identification process through the school board and possibly involve my child attending a school that is not our home school. I would be happy to share further information about initiating this process.

I hope that this information is helpful in this very important decision for the start of my child’s school career. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_