

Parent Information For Kindergarten Readiness

Kindergarten programs are delivered by a Qualified Early Years Educators. They are designed to support your child's development in social skills, emotional stability, language development, understanding concepts, self-help skills and find the joy of play and learning within a safe early years environment.

Families with children born between January and April can choose which year to start Three-Year-Old Kindergarten. Children can start in the same year they turn three, however are unable to begin the program until their date of birth - often missing a large amount of development and settling in the first few months.

Alternatively, they can also choose to start in the year they turn four years of age.

When enrolling your three year old, families need to consider that this is the beginning of their Kindergarten to School journey and once your child begins their Kindergarten year, they will be unable to receive a funded second year of Three year old Kindergarten. Therefore, it is important to consider if your child will be ready - some points to take into account, include:

- Is your child confident to separate from you easily with support?
- Can they use their language skills to ask for help with general self-care tasks and everyday group situations?
- Are they able to engage in routine/transition times including larger group-times?
- Can they interact, find a sense of belonging with other children who are similar ages/stages?
- Can they share and turn take in a positive environment in larger groups of children?
- Can they follow simple instructions, concentrate for periods of time and pack up after play?
- Are they developing the ability to self-regulate?
- Are they curious and show interest within their environment through play?
- Are they able to safely sit and feed themselves and begin to be progressively interested in toilet training?
- Does your child tire easily and require a rest during long sessions?

All Early Years Educators understand that children develop at different rates, ages, stages and have individual developmental needs. They will endeavour to create a positive, nurturing and educational experience for every child.

As families, it is important to consider your child's own needs and remember that Kindergarten readiness is an important step into your child's educational journey, and it is important to create a memorable and positive experience for all.

Alternative play environments that can assist Kindergarten readiness for further growth and development to help prepare your individual child include:

- regular playdates
- supported playgroups in the community
- occasional care
- attending childcare
- library storylines
- community activities.

For further information please visit www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/children-and-family