

Supporting children with additional needs at kindergarten

All children who meet the age eligibility criteria are able to enrol in Warrnambool City Council kindergartens including children with additional needs. Additional needs can include a child with speech difficulties, hearing loss, toileting concerns, developmental delay, social and emotional concerns or a diagnosed disability.

Going to kindergarten is an important milestone in the lives of both you and your child. It will help your child learn skills that they will build on throughout their life and provide a great opportunity to grow socially and emotionally, which helps them get ready to start school. Our Staff are committed to supporting and including all children. They work in partnership with families and support services to ensure each child has the opportunity to be fully engaged in the kindergarten program.

Choosing the right kindergarten to suit your child's needs takes planning and research. You will need to consider which kindergarten best suits your child - this will partly be determined by the sort of support your child needs and the length of the session that the kindergarten runs.

The Central Enrolment process also supports children with additional needs by seeking information about each

child regarding:

- Any additional needs a child may have (hearing, speech, emotional needs, social needs);
- any specific diagnosis (medical, disability);
- any support service a child or family are involved with (eg. speech therapist, psychologist, occupational therapist, Maternal and Child Health, Family Support, Mpower, Child First, Early Childhood Intervention Service, National Disability Insurance Scheme).

It is important that you provide as much information as possible when doing your child's enrolment as this will assist kindergarten staff to ensure they are prepared for the learning and development needs of your child.

During the application to enrol process you will be asked for information on your child's additional needs or health concerns and you may be required to upload documentation to support this. If you don't have documentation, please don't let this stop you from providing this information as it is important for us to know. If you encounter any difficulties or have queries please contact WCC on 5559 4800 and ask to speak to the Preschool Field Officers or Inclusion and Care Officer.

