

Would your child manage?

Some kindergarten groups can have as many as 30 children with two staff members. Would your child manage well, or just cope in this context?

It may be best for your child to defer entry to a funded 4 year old kindergarten program until the following year. A discussion with your kindergarten teacher may be helpful as you make this decision.

- In Victoria children do not have to start school until they are six years of age.
- You have until the end of term 2 to decide on deferral & your child will still be eligible for a fully funded year of kindergarten.



What is best for YOUR child?

Children learn through play. Remember, children learn best when they feel comfortable & are happy, with a positive self-esteem.

The alternatives for children not attending 4 year old kindergarten or school are:

- Being at home with parents or carer
- 3 year old kindergarten
- 3 year old activity group
- Parent -run playgroups
- Occasional care
- Early Learning Groups
- Family Day Care

For further information, the following professionals may be able to provide assistance:

- Maternal and Child Health Nurse
- Childcare provider
- Kindergarten Teacher
- Preschool Field Officer
- Principal or Teacher
- Educational Consultant

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When is my child ready to attend kindergarten or school?

Should I Defer My Child's Funded Kindergarten Entry



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Kindergarten/School Readiness

Many parents are faced with the dilemma of deciding when their child is ready for kindergarten or school. In Victoria, the State Government provides funding for four-year-old children to attend kindergarten during the year before commencing school. Kindergarten for three-year-old children is not funded by the government and many professionals believe that children are not disadvantaged if they do not attend three year old kindergarten.

Beginning kindergarten or school is a major step in the milestones for education and learning for young children and their families. Most children will spend at least 13 years in the education system so remember, it is not a race to complete school. Many families are choosing to wait until their children turn six years old before sending them to school.

Legally, children must be five years old by 30 April of the year they are commencing school. They may commence school in the year they turn six.

Readiness for kindergarten or school does not reflect on parenting styles or the intelligence of the child.

If a child is not ready for kindergarten or school and is enrolled with the intention of repeating the year, this may lead to a negative experience and subsequently a loss of self-esteem.

Developmental considerations in relation to kindergarten readiness

(Social, Emotional, Physical, Language, Cognitive)

As children begin kindergarten, they are usually beginning to:

- Interact in different social situations.
- Play/work co-operatively with others.
- Show awareness of waiting, sharing & taking turns.
- Respond appropriately to rules, routines & limit setting
- Separate comfortably from parents.
- Learn about developing self control.
- Show comfort with the support of an understanding adult.
- Increase their confidence to move between play spaces.
- Show evidence of making own choices & decisions.
- Develop independence with toileting & dressing.
- Take some responsibility for own belongings.
- Develop physical skills such as jumping, hopping, throwing & catching a ball, running, climbing, balance, beginning to use scissors & drawing implements & block building.

Benefits of deferral for your child

You may be considering delaying your child's entry into a funded 4 year old kindergarten or the Kindergarten Teacher, based on professional Early Childhood Education knowledge and experience, may wish to discuss with you the option of deferral as being what could be best for your child.

Some of the benefits of deferral

for your child can be

- Time to mature developmentally (eg language, social, emotional, motor and cognitive development)
- Increased confidence in social situations.
- More able to manage peer group expectations, conflicts and frustrations.
- Most optimal time in your child's life to give them time to mature without being rushed to develop.
- More mature and confident on entering Primary and Secondary school