



Sometimes it can be difficult to decide whether your child is ready for the next step in their education; whether that be entering three or four-year-old kindergarten or starting school. Below is some important information to help you make an informed choice. If you would like to discuss this information with an educator at St Peter's Kindergarten, please call us on 9592 5122.

## KINDERGARTEN READINESS

What an exciting time in your child's life! When making a decision about the year your child should start kindergarten, it is important to look at your child's skills and abilities, and consider their individual needs.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) states:

It is important for children to start **school** when they are ready to learn in a more formal environment. **It is also important for you to consider when it is best for your child to start school as this will help you determine the best time for them to begin kindergarten.**

### Deferring Kindergarten

In 2022, two years of funded kindergarten will be available across Victoria - one year of 3YO kinder, and one year of 4YO kinder. Government policy states that a child is entitled to funding for ONE year of a 3 year old kindergarten, and ONE year of a 4 year old kindergarten only. When applying for kindergarten, parents need to carefully consider the age of their child and whether they will be ready for the demands of kindergarten. St Peter's Kindergarten teachers are available to discuss these matters.

Things to look for when considering whether your child is ready for kindergarten or if you should defer kindergarten entry include:

- Separation issues – how does your child separate from you?
- Does your child ask for help when required?
- Is your child easily understood most of the time?
- How is fine and gross motor development?
- Is toilet training established?
- Does your child still need a daytime sleep? Tire easily?
- Is your child willing to try to understand reasons for sharing and turn taking?
- How does your child respond to simple instructions?
- Is your child comfortable in a group setting?
- Is your child easily upset/distressed?
- Can your child wash hands independently and find their own belongings?
- Can your child move from one activity to another without constant adult supervision?

Deferment can assist the child to:

- Become more confident where they may be more comfortable to take on the role of a leader rather than a follower.
- Allows children to have time to make their own decisions
- Takes the stress and anxiety off the child to try to be like peers when they need to develop at their own rate.



# St Peter's Kindergarten

## Accessing a second Year of 4 year old Kindergarten

In some circumstances, the 4YO kindergarten teacher may observe your child demonstrating delays in key outcome areas of their learning and development. Furthermore, if they believe your child would benefit from another year of funded kindergarten, a second year of kindergarten funding may be applied for when evidence is shown in two areas of delayed development. You should not enrol your child, to commence kindergarten, with the assumption that they will meet the criteria for a second year. This cannot be assumed. It is best for your child's learning, development and confidence to make an informed decision prior to your child's commencement. Many parents who have children with birthdates between February and April choose to commence 4 year old kindergarten in the year they will turn 5, as this age gap will continue to be evident throughout your child's school years.

## *SCHOOL READINESS—HOW TO ASSESS YOUR CHILD'S READINESS FOR SCHOOL*

Government policy has changed in regard to children's journey toward school readiness. Children will not be able to access a second year of funded four-year-old kindergarten unless there is evidence of delays across two areas of development. Proof needs to consist of systematic documented observation and assessment.

Teachers continuously assess children's learning and development, and if they feel it would be beneficial for your child to repeat 4YO kindergarten, they will discuss this with you. Likewise, if you have concerns about your child's development, your teacher is always available to consult.

*"The key areas of maturity and development are the social and emotional areas of development. Contrary to what most people believe, reading, writing and knowing colours and numbers are not readiness indicators."*  
- Kathy Walker- Educational Consultant

The parental role is to decide when you want your child to attend Primary school and ensure that funded pre-school is accessed in the two years prior to school. The aim is that once children begin four-year-old kinder it is anticipated that they will attend school the next year. Being developmentally young will not be considered as a reason for a second year of funding. A child should not start three or four-year-old kindergarten young, with the thought that they can just do another year.

If you are deciding which year to start your child in three or four-year-old kindergarten, please talk to the teachers at St Peter's Kindergarten.

## **2022 timetable**

3YO Teddy Bears	Tuesday 8.30-2.30	Teacher: Donna Gillespie	Educator: Christina Yeomans
4YO Kangaroos	Monday 8.30-4.00 Thursday 8.30-4.00	Teacher: Cath Beckingham	Educator: Celia Lee
4YO Koalas	Wednesday 8.30-4.00 Friday 8.30-4.00	Teacher: Kerry Morgan	Educator: Annie Boys
Extended care (term booking required)	4.-00-5.30 Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays	Educator: Christina Yeomans	