



DOES MY CHILD NEED A SECOND YEAR OF KINDERGARTEN?

In most cases, children make a successful transition to school after their four-year-old kindergarten year. Even if your child has been absent from their on-site kindergarten program for a period of time, it does not mean that your child won't thrive at primary school.

All children are different, even those of similar ages, and no matter what experiences children have before they arrive at school, they will have developed a range of skills and abilities that form the basis for further learning.

Schools provide environments that are flexible, adaptable and responsive to individual children, as well as access to additional supports or specialist staff where needed.

If you have specific concerns about aspects of your child's development, please talk to your child's early childhood teacher about these and how you can work together to support your child's learning.

During four-year-old kindergarten, your early childhood teacher will assess your child, plan for their move to school and identify any developmental areas that may need particular attention.

There may be a small number of children for whom a second year of kindergarten is appropriate. Your child may be eligible if:

- your child's teacher has found they have developmental delays in at least two key areas of learning and development, and
- your child will have better outcomes at kindergarten rather than going to school.

YOUR CHILD'S ASSESSMENT

There are guidelines that early childhood teachers will follow to assess your child's eligibility for a second year of kindergarten. These guidelines help the teacher identify your child's needs and goals.

The learning and development areas assessed by early childhood teachers include:

- identity – the child's sense of identity
- community – the child's connection with and contribution to their world
- wellbeing – the child's sense of wellbeing
- learning – the child's confidence and involvement in learning
- communication – the child's communication
- other factors may also be considered.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT

It's important that you and the teacher work together to achieve the best outcome for your child. With your consent, the teacher will:

- complete the assessment of your child
- meet with you to discuss this assessment
- if delays in your child's development are identified, develop a Learning and Development Plan for your child
- get the support of other early childhood development professionals as needed.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

If the teacher believes your child has a developmental delay in two or more key areas and would benefit from a second year of kindergarten, they will complete a Second Year Statement which will require your input in Term 4. They will also send a declaration to us (the Department) and talk to you about your options.

Talk to your kindergarten service for more information or advice.

GET AN EXEMPTION FROM SCHOOL

If your child turns six in their first or second year of four-year-old kindergarten, you must get an exemption from school. For more information, visit the [Department's website](#).