Does my child need an additional year of kindergarten?

**In most cases, children make a successful transition to Four-Year-Old Kindergarten/Pre-Prep after Three-Year-Old Kindergarten or to school after Four-Year-Old Kindergarten/Pre-Prep. This page is for parents/guardians who are wondering if their child is ready to progress to Four-Year-Old Kindergarten or school.**

Kindergartens and schools provide environments that are inclusive, flexible, adaptable and responsive to individual children. Some children will be eligible to access additional supports 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, both at kindergarten and as they prepare to transition to school.

During kindergarten, the early childhood teacher will assess your child’s learning, develop goals and plan for their transition to [Four-Year-Old Kindergarten/Pre-Prep](https://www.vic.gov.au/preprep) or school. This will include identifying any learning and development areas that may need additional support.

There may be a small number of children for whom an additional year of kindergarten at their current program level is appropriate. Your child may be eligible if:

* your child's early childhood teacher has found they have developmental delays in at least two key areas of learning and development, and
* your child will have better outcomes completing an additional year in their current program rather than transitioning to Four-Year-Old Kindergarten/Pre-Prep or school.

Children are required to be enrolled in school in the year they turn six (compulsory school age). Attending an additional year of funded kindergarten may mean your child will need an exemption from school due to age.

If your child turns six while attending kindergarten, you must get an exemption from school by 1 November the year prior. The [age calculator](https://www.vic.gov.au/kinder-quick-guide-parents#when-to-start) can assist in determining how old your child will be in Three and Four-Year-Old/Pre Prep.

For example, if your child turns 6 on 28th August 2026 and will not attend school in 2026, you need to apply for an exemption to school by 1 November 2025.

For more information, visit the website[: Going to kindergarten if your child is 6 years old](https://www.vic.gov.au/going-kindergarten-if-your-child-six-years-old).

## Your child’s assessment

There are guidelines that early childhood teachers must follow to assess your child’s eligibility for an additional second year of kindergarten, which include considering the five areas of learning and development in the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF). The guidelines help the teacher to identify your child's needs and plan individual learning goals.

The five learning and development areas in the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework used to support assessment are:

* Children have a strong sense of identity
* Children are connected with and contribute to their world
* Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
* Children are confident and involved learners
* Children are effective communicators.

Other factors may also be considered.

## Your involvement

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

* meet with you to discuss the requirements for an additional funded year of kindergarten and if it is in the best interest of your child
* develop a Term 3 Learning and Development Plan for your child, if delays in your child’s development are identified
* engage the support of other early childhood development professionals as needed.

The early childhood teacher will also encourage you in Term Two or Three to visit and talk with the kindergarten or school that your child will attend the following year. This will assist you to find out about the program and the types of support available to assist your child in the new environment.

If the early childhood teacher believes your child has a developmental delay in two or more key areas and would benefit from an additional year of kindergarten, with your agreement they will complete a Declaration of Eligibility for an additional year of funded kindergarten. They will send a declaration to the Department of Education (the department), and you will also receive a copy. The early childhood teacher will also invite you to assist them to complete what’s known as an Additional Year Statement during Term Four.

Talk to your kindergarten service for more information or advice.