



Ellie V. Pullin Pre-School Centre Inc.

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CHILDREN'S SERVICE CENTRE REGISTRATION NO. 3031 ABN 98897608343 Incorporation No. A006179

Dear Families,

Kindergarten Enrolments – 2025

Enrolments for both three and four year old kindergarten in 2024 commence on 1 March 2024, and are open until 30 June 2024. Applications must be made via MIKA who are independent to Ellie V Pullin Pre-School, and provide a central enrolment system on behalf the City of Maroondah. MIKA and the Council determine your child's offer of placement; the preschool had no influence.

If your child is currently enrolled at Ellie V Pullin Pre-School for the three-year-old program, you must submit a new application for the four year old program as this is a separate process and new application.

To enrol your child please go to the MIKA website <https://www.mika.org.au/> and create an account (if you don't already have one). To submit an application for either three year old or four year old programs you must use the current form which is available to complete via an online form or a paper application, and both are accessible via this website.

Applications close 30 June 2024. All applications received by this date are treated equally by MIKA there is no advantage for submitting an early application. Applications will be accepted after 30 June, however they will be considered as late applications and are held in order of receipt, to be actioned once all on time applications are placed (subject to availability of positions).

Applications must be accompanied by the child's up to date immunisation history statement from the Australian Immunisation Register, proof of residential address and a \$30 application fee which is payable to MIKA. The proof of address is required to establish the residential proximity to your preferred kindergarten. If you require additional concerning this application process please contact MIKA directly at info@mika.org.au.

Kindergarten allocations made by MIKA

MIKA's enrolment officer undertakes the allocation of places throughout July, and you will be notified of your child's placement by MIKA in early August.

Given Ellie V Pullin Pre-Schools reputation and popularity as a top preference for many local Maroondah residents, the kindergarten is usually oversubscribed and receives more applications than positions available. Children are placed by MIKA in accordance with; No Jab no play legislation, the Governments Priority Access guidelines, and MIKA's "proximity criteria". The Preschool has no control over any of the allocations made by MIKA.

Ellie V Pullin Pre-School has written to MIKA to request a review of the method of allocation, as it can result in enrolled three-year-old children missing out on a four year old place the following year, which unduly interrupts their learning journey; it can also mean siblings are unable to attend the same kindergarten. We will continue to raise this issue with MIKA and Council, however their position has been that no change can be made to their selection criteria at this point in time.

When can my child commence three-year-old kindergarten?

Children are eligible to apply for the three year old program, provided they turn three by 30 April 2025. No child can commence sessions until they have turned three and up to date with the Government immunisation program. Please note that if your child does not turn three years of age until close to the cut-off date of 30th April, they will miss a large part, if not all, of term one.

Additionally, if your child is eligible to attend three year old in accordance with the dates above, this does not mean they must attend this year. MIKA allows you to delay your child's attendance to the following year depending on your child's requirements. Three year old groups will have children between the ages of three and four in them so they will still be attending with their peers.

Government policy only allows funding subsidy for children to attend one year of three year old kindergarten. There is no option to complete a second year of three year old, which means your child needs to move on to the four year old program the following year. Being too young, doesn't meet the criteria for a second year of four year old kindergarten.

Four year old program

Children are eligible to apply for the four year old program provided they turn four years of age by 30 April in the year they attend. Even though you can enrol your child when they are of eligible age, you can delay your child's kindergarten attendance until the following year if you believe its best for your child. The four year old program will have children who are four, five and sometimes even turning six.

Families of children with birth dates between 1 January and 30 April have a choice about whether their child will commence school in the year they turn five or the following year, and therefore whether they commence kindergarten in the year they turn four or the year they turn five.

Government policy allows a funding subsidy for one year of four year old kindergarten per child in the year prior to school entry. A second year of funded kindergarten may be granted by the government in limited circumstances. To be eligible, a child needs to be observed as having delays in at least two areas of learning and development. An application must be made to the Department by the child's teacher.

Families who have questions about the best time for their child to commence school, and hence kindergarten should discuss this decision with the kindergarten teacher, maternal and child health nurse, prep teacher or other professionals involved in supporting the development of their child.

2025 timetable

The timetable for 2024 is provisional and cannot be finalised by the Ellie V Pullin Committee until near the end of this year, well after the closure of enrolments. The Committee does not anticipate it will change, however there are some factors that are outside of our control, including potential announcements around State Government requirements as they roll out kindergarten reform. We will communicate any changes as they occur.

Four Year old Group allocations

Offer and placement at Ellie V Pullin Pre-School is managed by MIKA and there is no influence by Ellie V Pullin Committee or Teachers.

However once placement has been confirmed, group allocations (i.e. the days and times your child will attend kindergarten) are managed by Ellie V Pullin Pre-School. Information will be compiled by the Enrolment officer and Administration officer, with no other involvement or input from the Committee or Teachers.

Upon acceptance, families will receive a group preference form and letter from Ellie V Pullin Pre-School asking for preferences for their group allocation.

Group preference is not determined on a first in basis.

Upon return of the group preference forms, all information will be collated, and children allocated to their preferred groups. Please note that you are not guaranteed placement in your preferred group.

If there is an oversubscription for a particular group, then a ballot will be conducted. Further information on the ballot process will be communicated by the Ellie V Pullin Committee prior to 30th June 2024.

More information?

We hope this detail was useful, and if you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's enrolment please contact either the Ellie V Pullin Administration officer at info@ellievpullinpreschool.vic.edu.au or phone 9876 4251, or contact the President at president@ellievpullinpreschool.vic.edu.au or phone 0417 593 135.