



ELLIE V. PULLIN PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE INC.  
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CHILDRENS SERVICE CENTRE REGISTRATION NO. 3031  
ABN 98 897608343 Incorporation No#: A0013171R

## Starting Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

Often families will enquire about when is the best time to start kindergarten. For children who are younger (with birthdates falling between January and April) this information may assist you in making a decision regarding the best time for your child to commence Kindergarten.

In accordance with Victorian Government legislation, children are eligible to apply for the three-year-old program, provided they turn three by 30<sup>th</sup> April. However, no child can **commence** sessions until they have turned three and have an up-to-date Immunisation History Statement. Children who turn three years of age closer to the cut off date of 30<sup>th</sup> April will miss a large part, if not all of Term One and will have less time overall as part of the three-year-old kindergarten program, in comparison to their peers.

If your child is eligible to attend three-year-old kindergarten per Government regulations, this does not mean they must attend in that year. MIKA allows you to delay your child's attendance to the following year depending on your child's requirements. The three-year-old group will have children between the ages of three and four in them so they will still be attending with their peers.

An additional year of three-year-old kindergarten cannot be guaranteed. 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 and being 'too young' does not meet the criteria. Government policy currently allows for children who meet the eligibility criteria to complete either an additional year of three-year-old **or** four-year-old kindergarten – **but not both**.

When your child starts kindergarten directly relates to the age that they will start primary school. We encourage families to plan ahead and consider the age they would like their child to start at school.

Families are fortunate to have the option for their child to commence three-year-old kindergarten in the same year they turn three, or in the year they turn four years of age. In some cases, your child may benefit from starting a kindergarten program later. You know your child best, and there are steps you can take if you are unsure about the best time for your child to start.



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Consider seeking advice from trusted early childhood professionals by:

- attending the kindergarten information session or open day and speak with the early childhood teachers.
- speak to your child's current educators, if your child attends a long day care program, their educators will be regularly assessing their learning and development needs
- talking with your child's Maternal and Child Health nurse, family doctor and any other professionals your child sees (for example, speech therapist, physiotherapist or paediatrician).

We hope this information is useful, and if you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's enrolment please contact the Ellie V Pullin Administration Officer at [info@elliepullinpreschool.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@elliepullinpreschool.vic.edu.au) or phone 9876 4251.