

# IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR THREE YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN?

3-YEAR-OLD KINDER

**Best Start**

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Starting kindergarten is an exciting time for you and your child. Whilst every child develops at a different rate, parents need to consider when is the right time to send their child to kindergarten. The ages of children attending 3 year old kinder can vary greatly, especially if your child is turning three during the first term, as approx. one third of the children in the group will be nearly a year older and half of the group will be six months older.

Families that have children born between January and April may like to contemplate enrolling their child for the following year, when their emotional and social maturity has developed further. Deciding when to send your child to kindergarten is also in effect the start of your child's journey towards primary school. Children are unable to attend a second year of three year old kindergarten and a second year of funded four year old kindergarten may only be considered when;

- a child shows delays in two areas of learning and development
- where it is agreed and believed that a kindergarten program will be the most appropriate learning program for the child with better outcomes than if they were to transition to school.

Children who are just “young” will not meet the criteria, so please consider carefully and ask yourself “What is the rush?” Here are a few more points to consider when making your decision whether they are ready or not;

- Age
- Child's size and stamina (do they tire easily/still require naps)
- Independent toileting
- Be able to snack independently
- Understand and follow simple instructions
- Can express their needs

At Woodridge, your child needs to have turned three before they can commence. So, for example, if your child's birthday is mid April, they will have missed two months of kindergarten before they can even start.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [infowoodridgeps@gmail.com](mailto:infowoodridgeps@gmail.com) or refer to the Best Start Best Life website at [www.vic.gov.au/sending-child-kinder](http://www.vic.gov.au/sending-child-kinder)