



School Readiness

Many parents are faced with the dilemma of deciding when their child is ready school. Beginning school is a major step in the milestones for education and learning for young children and their families. Most children will spend at least 13 years in the education system so remember, it is not a race to complete school. Many families are choosing to wait until their children turn six years old before sending them to school.

Legally, children must be five years old by 30 April of the year they are commencing school. They may commence school in the year they turn six. Readiness for school does not reflect on parenting styles or the intelligence of the child.

What is School Readiness?

Kathy Walker (2005) suggests that:

“Readiness is the time when a child possesses the necessary maturity and development to begin school successfully.

Readiness is defined in most research in many international studies as predominantly based upon a young child's social and emotional maturity.”

Kathy Walker, Educational Consultant, Melbourne (2005)

Families may like to consider the following information when enrolling their child for kindergarten or school.

Social/emotional maturity

A child needs to be able to:

- socialise;
- separate easily from parents;
- play with their classmates;
- deal with the structured nature of a more formal learning environment;
- follow instructions;
- complete tasks; and
- understand the rules.



Communication skills

Communication is used to engage and teach children. Children need to be able to:

- listen and understand what the teacher is saying and respond accordingly;
- deal with conflict and frustration; and
- express their needs and feelings.



Self help skills

A child needs to be able to:

- dress and undress;
- go to the toilet;
- use a pencil and scissors; and
- unwrap lunch with minimal adult supervision.

Wellbeing

Physical and intellectual wellbeing is an important attribute to consider for school readiness. Children who have a disability or an illness may require additional resources. Please contact the school prior to enrolment to ensure appropriate resources are sourced.