

# A second year of kindergarten



## Some children may benefit from a second year of kindergarten

Children develop at different rates and not all children are ready to start school at the end of their four-year-old kindergarten year.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development supports eligible children to attend a second year of a funded kindergarten program.

## Eligibility for a second year of kindergarten

The kindergarten teacher must assess your child as having delays in at least two areas of development:

- self-care
- the ability to speak and/or understand language
- cognitive (intellectual) development
- social development
- emotional development

If you think that a second year of kindergarten will help to strengthen the development of these skills then it may be worthwhile.

You should consider what benefits your child will gain from a second year of kindergarten. Working together with the Program Support Group will ensure the best planning possible.

Don't be afraid to raise questions and ask for explanations. You are an expert on your child and you will add valuable input to the discussion. As a parent, you need to feel comfortable with the decision you make.

## Application process

The kindergarten teacher must make a detailed assessment of your child and complete a *Declaration of Eligibility for a second year of funded kindergarten* form. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development must receive the form by the last day of Term 3.

## Kindergarten Inclusion Support Services for a second year

The kindergarten service may be eligible for a second year of support through Kindergarten Inclusion Support Services but this cannot be guaranteed. A separate application must be made for the second year.

## School exemption

If your child will turn six (compulsory school age) while attending a second year of funded kindergarten, you must get a school exemption from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

You must complete an *Exemption from school due to attendance in kindergarten program* form and attach a copy of the completed *Declaration of Eligibility for a second year of funded kindergarten* form.

You must then send both forms to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development regional office by 1 November in the year before your child turns six.

Once a decision is made, the regional office will complete the bottom section of the form and return a copy to you. You must then show this to the kindergarten service.

**“Going to school is a big step and we just weren't sure our daughter was ready to start school the following year. We talked to the kindergarten teacher and after weighing everything up, we decided that a second year would help her to consolidate some skills and develop a bit more independence.”**

## For more information

**‘Does my child need a second year of kindergarten’ information kit and application form for a second year of a kindergarten program**  
Office for Children and Early Childhood Development  
[www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au](http://www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au)

**School exemption process**  
Phone 1800 809 834  
[www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au)

**Association for Children with a Disability**  
Phone 9818 2000 or  
1800 654 013 (rural callers)  
[www.acd.org.au](http://www.acd.org.au)

## Association for Children with a Disability

This series of Kindergarten Inclusion Tip Sheets was developed by the Association for Children with a Disability in partnership with the Victorian Government's Office for Children and Early Childhood Development.