

Planning with the Program Support Group



Through the Program Support Group, parents and staff work together to include your child in the kindergarten program

Good communication and planning by the Program Support Group (PSG) can lay the foundation for a positive kindergarten experience for your child.

Planning with the Program Support Group involves a series of regular meetings to plan and review your child's kindergarten experience.

All children with additional needs can benefit from the active involvement of a Program Support Group.

The Program Support Group should meet well before your child starts kindergarten.

See the *Planning guide for the year before your child starts kindergarten*

at the back of this spread for an overview of tasks and activities to keep in mind during this time.

Members of the Program Support Group

Parents are key members of the Program Support Group. Your knowledge, experience and ideas are crucial to the success of the Program Support Group.

Members of the Program Support Group may include:

- one or both parents
- the kindergarten teacher
- early Childhood Intervention staff
- the Preschool Field Officer
- other professionals or therapists
- the Koorie Preschool Assistant

Each of these people is recognised as having skills and knowledge that will assist your child.

Program Support Groups aim to bring together key people with knowledge about your child to share ideas and develop a plan to maximise your child's experience of kindergarten.

Understanding your child's needs and abilities

During Program Support Group meetings you will have to talk about your child's diagnosis, medical issues, and development. Talking about your child's needs in detail isn't always easy, and you may feel a range of emotions during this discussion.

Try to focus on what your child can do but also be clear and specific about the type and level of support your child will need.

Working together

As a parent, you are an equal partner in supporting your child at kindergarten. You know your child better than anyone else.

By sharing information with the kindergarten staff you will help them to support your child to have a positive kindergarten experience.

Working together means listening to all points of view but you should feel comfortable to question anything you are unsure about.

Regular communication

The Program Support Group should communicate regularly so that there is a co-ordinated approach to your child's program.

Program Support Group (PSG) meetings

Regular Program Support Group meetings are an opportunity to:

- celebrate your child's achievements
- monitor your child's progress
- plan for the next term
- discuss issues or concerns

A regular Program Support Group meeting once a term is an opportunity to share important information about your child. This is in addition to the quick chats you will have with the kindergarten teacher.

Find a quiet moment before each meeting to write down the things you want to talk about.

If you want to take a friend or advocate with you for support, make sure you tell the other members of the group beforehand.

While you will have formal meetings together as a group, you may also have informal contact with each of these people on various issues.

Kindergarten Inclusion Support Services packages

If your child is eligible, the Program Support Group will assist the kindergarten teacher with an application for a Kindergarten Inclusion Support Services Package.

For more information see the tip sheet on *Kindergarten Inclusion Support Services packages*.