

Boroondara Kindergarten Central Enrolment Scheme

Factsheet - 3 year old kindergarten placement options 2022

From 2022 the Victoria Government will subsidise one year of kindergarten for each three-year-old child.

Five hours of kindergarten will be funded in 2022. From 2023 up to 15 hours will be funded with all services expected to offer 15 hours of funded three year old kindergarten by 2029.

In line with the school starting age, families with children born between January and April will have a choice about which year they start at a three-year-old kindergarten program. Families might choose for their children to attend the following year when they are turning 4 years of age. Other children will be two years old when their three-year-old kindergarten year starts.

Kindergartens are required to have a different ratio of staff to children, depending on the ages of the children. Services are required to have a ratio of 1 adult to 4 children when the children are under 3 of age, this changes to 1 adult to 11 children over 3 years of age. Some services may not have the number of staff needed to accommodate two-year-olds. In those instances, your child will not be able to commence the three year old kindergarten program until they have turned three years of age. All children attending a three year old kindergarten program must have had their third birthday by 30 April.

If this is the case for your child and you accept a place. Kindergartens will hold your child's place until they are old enough and only charge you fees for the weeks your child attends.

Kindergartens may ask for a security deposit to hold your child's place, but this will go towards fees once your child commences.

Each kindergarten will discuss with you directly about how they can support your child to join their program once they turn three.

Please consider the following before accepting/deferring your offer (if appropriate please consult your child's current Educator/ Carer or Maternal Child Health Nurse before making your decision).

- Term 1 finishes on 8 April 2022 so your child may miss the whole of first term.
- The Department of Education and Training **do not support a repeat year** of three year old kindergarten. After attending 3yo kindergarten in 2022, your child will attend 4yo kindergarten in 2023. **There will be no opportunity to repeat 3yo in 2023.**
- The trend to delay a young child's entry into kindergarten and school, reveals that there may be up to a 15 month age difference in any one class i.e. some children in the three-year-old group will turn 4 before your child turns 3 years of age. This pattern will continue throughout your child's schooling years. E.g. some children will be turning 13 when your child is still 11
- **Deferrals.** Central Enrolments have a deferral process to give parents the option to delay their child's entry from the three-year-old program in 2022, to the three- year old program in 2023. Parents may defer their child's 3 year old place up until the end of term one. When applying for a deferred place, your child withdraws from the 2022 program and their attendance in the 3 year program in 2023 is confirmed. In fairness to other families on the three-year-old waiting list, Central Enrolments appreciate deferrals to be lodged as soon as possible.
- A deferred position only applies to the kindergarten where the position has been accepted. It cannot be transferred to any other kindergarten the year it is taken up. Any request to change group choices within the kindergarten must be lodged by email to Central Enrolments prior to **24 June 2022**, the end of term 2. A request for a change to another kindergarten or a different year level will be treated as a new application and must comply with enrolment procedures.
- **A repeat year of 4 old kindergarten cannot be guaranteed.** For a child to be eligible for a second year of funded four-year-old kindergarten the child must be assessed by the teacher or another early childhood professional as having developmental concerns identified in two or more areas. Applications for a second year of funding must be submitted by the kindergarten teacher to the Department of Education and Training.

Please contact City of Boroondara on 9278 4444 or kindergarten@boroondara.vic.gov.au should you require any further information or wish to discuss these options for deferment.