

Some people you can contact before you make a decision:

- Adults who know your child well.
- The Kindergarten teacher at the centre you are considering enrolling your child.
- A Pre-School Field Officer who is available to meet with you at the Early Childhood Service with the teacher.

The Pre School Field Officer Service:

The Preschool Field officer (PSFO) program aims to support educator's to promote the participation of **all** children in preschool.



Where we are located

Bendigo (Head Office)

175-187 Hargreaves St
PO Box 315
Bendigo 3552
Phone: 03 5440 1100

Bendigo (Intake)

Preschool Field Officer Program
Phone: 0428 179 452

Echuca

51-55 Heygarth St
Echuca 3564
Phone: 03 5482 0900

Is my child ready for Preschool?



What do you need to consider?
How do you make a decision?
What are your options?



What is Preschool?

At Preschool your child will be encouraged to develop independence, self awareness and resilience. They will learn personal skills such as problem solving and co-operation.

So is my child ready for Preschool?

Answering these questions may assist you in making a decision for your child.

Can my child:

- ⇒ Separate from me for short periods of time without becoming unduly distressed?
- ⇒ Take some responsibility for his or her own belongings?
- ⇒ Go to the toilet without help most of the time?
- ⇒ Be generally understood

Is my child:

- ⇒ Able to join in some play with other children?
- ⇒ Able to concentrate on an activity for short periods of time?

Has my child:

- ⇒ Experienced playing alongside other children?
- ⇒ Had opportunities to relate to adults other than family?
- ⇒ Enough confidence to ask for help when needed?



Can I wait another year for Preschool?

Your child is guaranteed one year of Preschool before beginning Primary School.

Did you know that your child is not required to enter school until 6 years of age? When thinking about your child's readiness for Preschool you may consider:

- ⇒ How your child is developing rather than their birth date.
- ⇒ When your child would benefit most from their year of Preschool.
- ⇒ When will your child be socially and emotionally ready to deal with the demands of school?

Although your child may be old enough to attend Preschool each child develops at their own rate. You may decide to wait another year if you feel your child will benefit.

What will my child do if I wait for another year?

There are other services available which will provide opportunities for your child to develop and grow. There are many community options where you are able to participate with your child.

Some of these include:

- ⇒ Playgroup.
- ⇒ Three year old Kindergarten.
- ⇒ Childcare (Long day care/ family day care/occasional care).
- ⇒ A range of community programs e.g. Rhyme time at the library.
- ⇒ library.