

Beaconsfield Kindergarten



PO Box 329 Beaconsfield Vic. 3807

Wood Street, Beaconsfield Tel/Ph: 9707 1144

O'Neil Road Beaconsfield Tel/Ph: 87684444

Beaconsfield Kindergarten Incorporated.
Reg No. A 000 738 4E
ABN 66 941 353 318

DEFERMENT

What is Deferment?

Deferment is delaying your child's entrance into preschool and subsequently primary school by one year. It is an option for families who feel that socially and emotionally their child is not ready for the preschool experience and would benefit from another year to mature.

Deferment is generally available for children whose birthdays are between 1 January and 30 April. A child who has been deferred will attend funded (4yo) kindergarten in the year they turn 5, and will start school in the year they turn 6.

Why Should I Defer My Child?

Preschool is an important year, one in which we want children to have the opportunity to develop to their full potential. By deferring you give your child 12 months extra to naturally develop their skills and abilities. This will assist you child at preschool and build the maturity to deal with the expectations of school.

Starting preschool later can be better because:

| Deferred | Not deferred |
|---|---|
| Child will probably have had more experience at separation | Child may experience separation difficulties |
| Child will be more able to ask for help when required | Child at a loss in some instances |
| Maturation of fine and gross motor development will have increased | Less able to handle equipment, especially fine motor manipulative equipment |
| Toilet training will be more established | More chance of toilet accidents |
| Speech will be clearer and more mature | Speech sometimes difficult to understand due to immaturity of articulation |
| There will be less need to sleep during the day | More chance of fatigued behavior |
| The child will be more able to understand reasons for sharing and taking turn | The child may have difficulty in sharing, waiting and taking turns |
| The child will be more able to make choices - activities offered, etc, | Evidence of wandering, observing on periphery of activities |
| The child will be better equipped to | Evidence of wandering, observing on |

| | |
|--|---|
| participate fully and purposefully in activities | periphery of activities |
| The child is becoming more extroverted | The child is the entire centre of his or her world |
| The child is more ready for co-operative play | Lots of solitary or parallel play observed |
| The child takes pride in his/her achievements | Work is dashed off in order to go to the next activity |
| The child enjoys and is able to comply with an ordered routine, and fairly enforced limits | Insecurity in new environment, crying, wanting parent/to go home |
| The child is more able to cope with peers who frustrate and/or annoy | Any frustration is met with tears or tantrums, or physical aggression |

Deferment Indicators

- Confidence within the program
- Friendship forming skills (appropriate social contact e.g. not always staying with the same friend)
- Variation of task choice
- Level of complexity of play
- Attention and concentration span

Your Child's Attitude to Learning

- I can't versus I can
- Cope versus thrive
- Background influences
- Individual differences
- Developmental milestones

Deferment Points to Consider

- Is your child part of a social group?
- Children who defer do not miss out if they stay home with a caregiver so long as caregiver provides a positive loving environment and opportunities for learning.
- Deferment allows children time to grow.
- Deferment can assist the child to become more confident where they may be more comfortable to take on the role of a leader rather than a follower.
- Deferment allows children to have time to make their own decisions.
- Deferring takes the stress and anxiety off the child to try to be like peers when they need to develop at their own rate.
- Can your child speak for themselves and answer an adult?
- Can children explain what they feel? (Social skills you take with you throughout life.)

Who Can I Talk to About Deferment

The preschool teacher at the centre where your child is enrolled or a Preschool Field Officer at Cardinia Shire Council can discuss deferment with you.