



MACARTHUR CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENTAL CLINIC

School Readiness

Within the NSW school system, children may enrol in Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if they turn 5 on or before July 31 in that year. All children must be enrolled in school by the age of 6.

Knowing when your child is ready to start Kindergarten is a major decision for all parents. Your child may be ready to enrol age-wise, but are they ready to embark on their educational journey? Your child's preschool teacher is the best person to assess whether they are ready, as they have been trained in early childhood development. It is important to remember that school readiness is not about your child's ability to name colours or count, but rather their emotional and social maturity.

Your child is probably ready to start Kindergarten if he/she can:

1. **Follow simple directions** - It is important that your child can sit and listen to the teacher's instructions, as well as follow them
2. **Sit still** - Your child should be able to sit in one spot long enough to listen to a story and participate in class discussions
3. **Recognise most letters** - Your child is not expected to be able to read or write, but should recognise most letters of the alphabet
4. **Show an interest in learning** - It is helpful if your child is interested in learning and appears stimulated by the information
5. **Socialise with same aged peers** - Your child should know how to share and take turns, but it is not expected that these skills be fully developed at this stage
6. **Handle emotions** - It is important that your child knows his or her feelings, and has coping strategies
7. **Use the bathroom** - Your child should be able to know when they have to go to the bathroom, and be able to manage it by themselves

Here are a few questions to consider:



- Can your child handle separation?
- Does your child have experience following the rules of other adults? Such as sports and other public settings
- Does your child participate well in small groups and one on one play?
- Does your child develop friendships?
- Does your child communicate his/her needs to adults in charge?

While you don't have to answer yes to all of these questions for your child, they can help you see the overall picture of your child's emotional and social readiness and determine whether they are ready to begin Kindergarten. If you have any questions about your child's school readiness abilities, contact Macarthur CDC on 4648 0837.