

# Clarification on Enrolment in Pre-Primary in Western Australia

This statement has come about after many meetings and consultations with relevant authorities including the Education Department on flexibility in school starting age for vulnerable children. It clarifies that primary principals have delegated authority under The School Education Act in WA to make a decision about year group preference for individual children. Children still need to be enrolled - that is compulsory - however classroom placement has flexibility.

## Enrolment in Pre-Primary in Western Australia

The School Education Act in WA states that for children enrolling in Pre-Primary (5 years of age) requires that every child **must be enrolled** in a school for the upcoming year **they turn 5 by June 30**.

If a parent is concerned regarding their child's placement in Pre-primary for the following year then they need to consult their kindergarten teacher and make an appointment with the principal to discuss the most appropriate year group placement for their child. The principal has the delegated authority to make a **year group preference** that best suits a child who they believe has some developmental vulnerabilities and this decision is made in consultation with the families and relevant educational professionals. These vulnerabilities can be physical, emotional, cognitive, linguistic and social – essentially they lack the maturity to cope with 5 full days of schooling. It is possible that the principal in consultation with the families supports a request from families for an additional year of kindergarten. Although this will only impact a small number of children.

It is important to note that;

1. School principals **may** require additional information from appropriate professionals such as child psychologist and paediatricians. If a parent is worried about their child's development during kindergarten it is suggested they discuss their concerns immediately with their classroom teacher in the first instance.
2. The principal has the final say for a child's year group placement.