



THINKING ABOUT ENROLLING FOR KINDERGARTEN?

A Conversation Starter for Parents

The School Act states that parents/guardians must enroll their child in an educational program, provided by a Board of Education, on the first school day of a school year if, on or before December 31st of that school year, their child will have reached the age of 5 years.

While most children are ready to start school in the year they turn 5, parents of children in British Columbia may defer the enrolment of their child until the first school day of the next school year. For this next school year, parents may choose to register their child in either Kindergarten or Grade One. It is important to note that once a student starts Kindergarten in the year they turn 5, this decision cannot be changed, and students will progress with this cohort of children.

Potential Benefits of a Deferred Start	Potential Outcomes of a Deferred Start
Deferring school can provide some time for a child to mature if they are, or appear, young.	Deferring entry to school also delays early intervention and supports that can be provided through the school team.
If school is deferred, this can provide children and families time to work on social skills that the child may not have learned yet.	Different skills develop at different rates. Those children that struggle socially may excel academically and this may be affected by a deferment.
A combination of a child being young when entering Kindergarten, along with concerns of a child's learning ability, may make it challenging for a child to meet the expectations of Kindergarten.	Research indicates that deferring kindergarten entry has no long-term effect on academic achievement. By Grade 3, early differences tend to disappear.

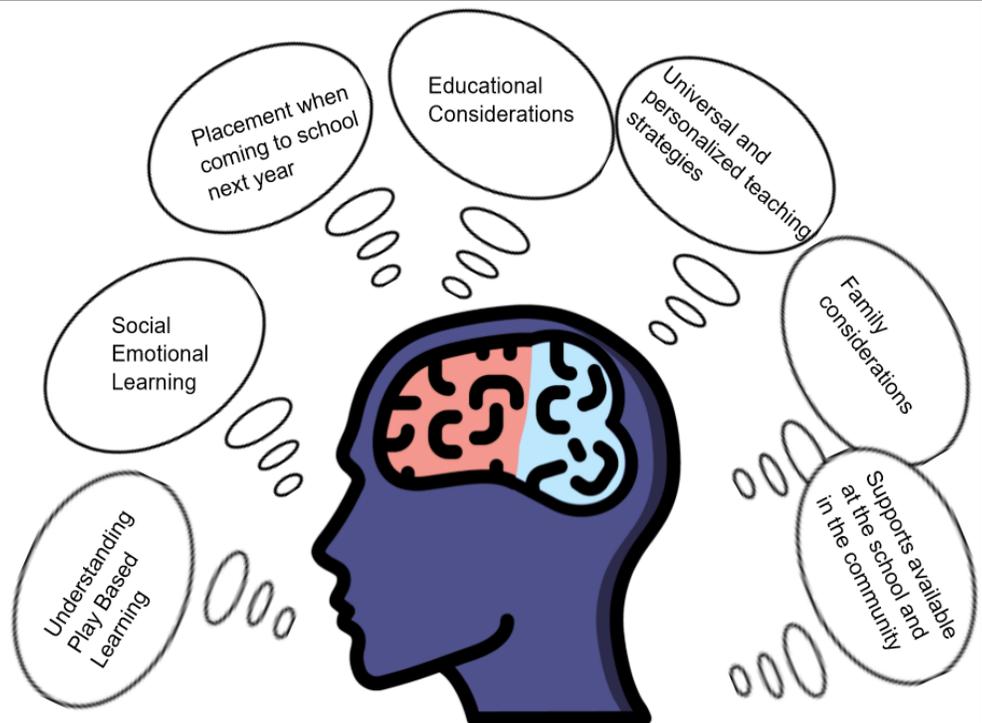
Kindergarten programs are supportive of all children, whether they are still four years old or approaching age six when they start. The learning outcomes in Kindergarten are very broad to allow for students who reach developmental milestones at different ages. Many students who seem behind at school entry catch up with peers given time and the opportunity to practice new skills with others.



Deferring Kindergarten does not guarantee improvement for your child. Families should have a plan for accessing early childhood experiences that will support their child's development.



When making a decision to defer Kindergarten for your child, it is important to consult with the administration at the school where your child will attend. They will hear your concerns, answer questions, present options and explain the pros and cons. There are many pieces to consider and discuss, including but not limited to:



Possible topics of Conversation with School Admin.