

## **ENROLLING IN KINDERGARTEN!**

### **A Conversation Starter for Parents**

The School Act states that families can enroll their child in an educational program, provided by a Board of Education the year their child will have reached the age of 5 years by December 31. While most children start school 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 year they turn 6 by December 31.

If a family is considering deferring Kindergarten enrollment, it is advised that they speak to their catchment area school directly in order to make the best decision for their child. Once a student starts Kindergarten, this decision cannot be changed.



Below is some information to consider when thinking about enrolling your child in Kindergarten.

<b>Potential Benefits of a Deferred Start</b>	<b>Potential Outcomes of a Deferred Start</b>
Deferring school can provide some additional time for a child to mature.	Deferring entry to school also delays early intervention and supports that can be provided by 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. Children who are still learning social skills may have strong academic skills and these may be affected by a deferred start.
A combination of a child being young when entering kindergarten, along with concerns of a child's learning ability, may cause parents to wonder about the best time for their child to start kindergarten.	Research indicates that deferring kindergarten entry has no long-term effect on academic achievement. By Grade 3, early differences tend to disappear. Your child's school can provide you with more information.



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

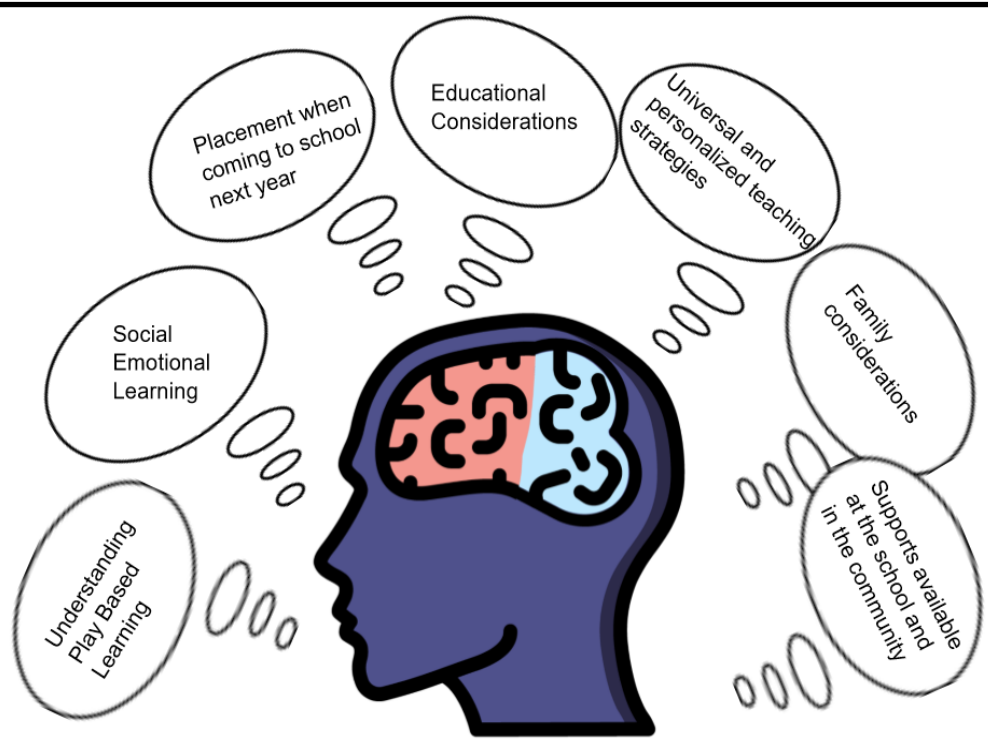


Kindergarten recognize and celebrate that students reach their developmental milestones at different ages. In Kindergarten, all children are provided with many opportunities to learn and develop new social and academic skills with their peers in a caring, inclusive classroom setting.



**Deferring Kindergarten does not guarantee improvement for your child. This is a decision that requires careful consideration and should be made in consultation with your child's school.**

***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.