

# What is the right age for my child to start school?

- Children may enter Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year in NSW schools if they turn five on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> of July in that year. (The starting age at St Joseph's is currently similar to this).
- Some children may be ready to start school at a young age while others may benefit from being a little older. By law, all children must start kindergarten by their sixth birthday.

## When is my child ready?

Before making the decision as to whether or not your child is ready for school, consider the following questions.

Can your child...

- Go to the toilet, eat and dress with minimal assistance?
- Recognise their own belongings?
- Recognise their own name?
- Stay with a familiar person happily?
- Concentrate for short periods?
- Understand and obey simple instructions?
- Cooperate without frequent temper tantrums?
- Makes their needs known to an adult?
- Follow simple instructions?
- Uses a variety of things (pens, pencils, textas, paintbrushes, sticks in the dirt) to draw, to scribble or to write?
- Identify things in a group that are different and differentiate between opposites such as day and night, light and dark etc?
- Play cooperatively with other children - share and takes turns?
- Use scissors to cut with?
- Enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor play?



If you answered 'yes' to most of these, it is a good indication that your child may be ready for the first year of school. If in doubt, always discuss this with their preschool teacher