

FAQS

# Kindergarten: Frequently Asked Questions



# FAQS

## **1. How do I enrol?**

As a Sentia Family, your child will automatically be enrolled in the appropriate Kindergarten program, unless you tell us otherwise. Existing children receive priority enrolment.

## **2. When will my child be eligible for Kinder?**

Cut-off Dates: Your child must be 5 years old by 30 April in the year they start Primary School. They must be 4 by 30 April in the year they enrol in 4-year-old Kindergarten. They must be 3 by 30 April in the year they enrol in 3-year-old Kindergarten.

## **3. Are there different types of Kinder Programs available?**

Yes, we offer both a sessional model (only available to families who are not eligible for CCS) and an integrated model. Essentially, the difference between an integrated (long day care) program and a sessional program are the hours offered and fees charged. Sessional kinder programs will only operate during Victorian school terms whereas integrated kinder programs operate for 52 weeks each year. We suggest that families decide on which type of kindergarten program best suits their family's needs and individual circumstances.

## **4. What are the hours for the Kindergarten Programs?**

Core hours for our Sessional Kindergarten program are 9:30 am to 5 pm on the allocated days (currently Mondays and Fridays).

The core hours for our Integrated Kindergarten program are 9 am to 5 pm. The formal program begins at 9:30 each morning, so please do your best to arrive before this. Normal centre hours apply: 7:30 am to 6:30 pm.

## **5. How many days should I attend?**

A minimum of two days attendance is required, as per Sentia's enrolment policy.

## **6. What do I need to do if I want my child to attend Kinder at Sentia?**

You will need to declare this by signing a form at the beginning of your 3YO or 4YO Kinder year. We will do the rest.

## **7. How are fees charged for Kinder?**

The government is currently providing a 'Free Kinder' Subsidy. This means that families accessing the sessional program will not be charged any fees.

Childcare fees are supplemented by Child Care Subsidy (CCS), so families accessing the integrated program will be charged the daily fee – CCS – Free Kinder subsidy applied at \$50 per week = gap fee.

## **8. Who will the teachers be?**

Our Three-Year Old and Four-Year Old Kindergarten programs are both delivered by Degree Qualified Early Childhood Teachers. These Teachers normally work during Victorian school terms and access their leave during school holidays.

## **9. Are there any other Educators in the room?**

Each program is supported by an Assistant Educator in order to meet (and exceed) ratios at all times. If there are children with diagnosed delays, we may seek funding for an additional Educator in the room and reduce ratios even more.

## **10. What if my child has some developmental or learning delays?**

Both programs include a strong focus on inclusion, paving the way for children of all abilities to participate. Additional support (staffing, resources, training) is facilitated by our Inclusion Support specialists.

## **11. Do I have to pay extra for Incursions and Excursions?**

There are no additional costs for the exciting additions to learning: Incursions (Science, Music, Sport and others), Excursions within our local community and special events.

### **12. I really want my child to read and write and count to 100 before school. Will you teach this?**

The Sentia educational pathway prepares children for school in a holistic way. You can read more about our school readiness approach [HERE](#).

### **13. How will Sentia support our transition to Primary School?**

Four-year-old Kindergarten children will be supported in their transition to school through 'Transition Statements' prepared by Centre, Family and Child and then shared with Prep Teachers at Primary School.