



An E Book Resource FOR PARENTS

This booklet provides some research and ideas to consider when making a decision about when to start your child at preschool or school.
It is advisable to seek professional advice if you are feeling unsure.



PARENT SUPPORT BOOKLET



Readiness is not about schools just adapting and attempting to meet the needs of children. International research emphasises that certain areas of development and maturity are essential for children so that once at school, they are able to maximise the opportunities provided.

Social and emotional areas of development are most important for a child in regard to school readiness. This contrasts with what many people believe.

Reading, writing and knowing colours or numbers are NOT readiness indicators.

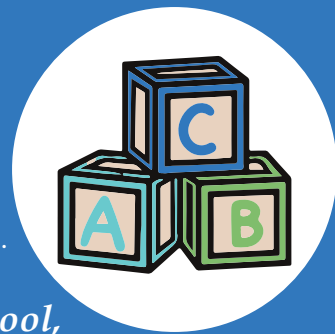
The key areas of social and emotional maturity related to school readiness can be summarised by considering the following:

At preschool, does your child...

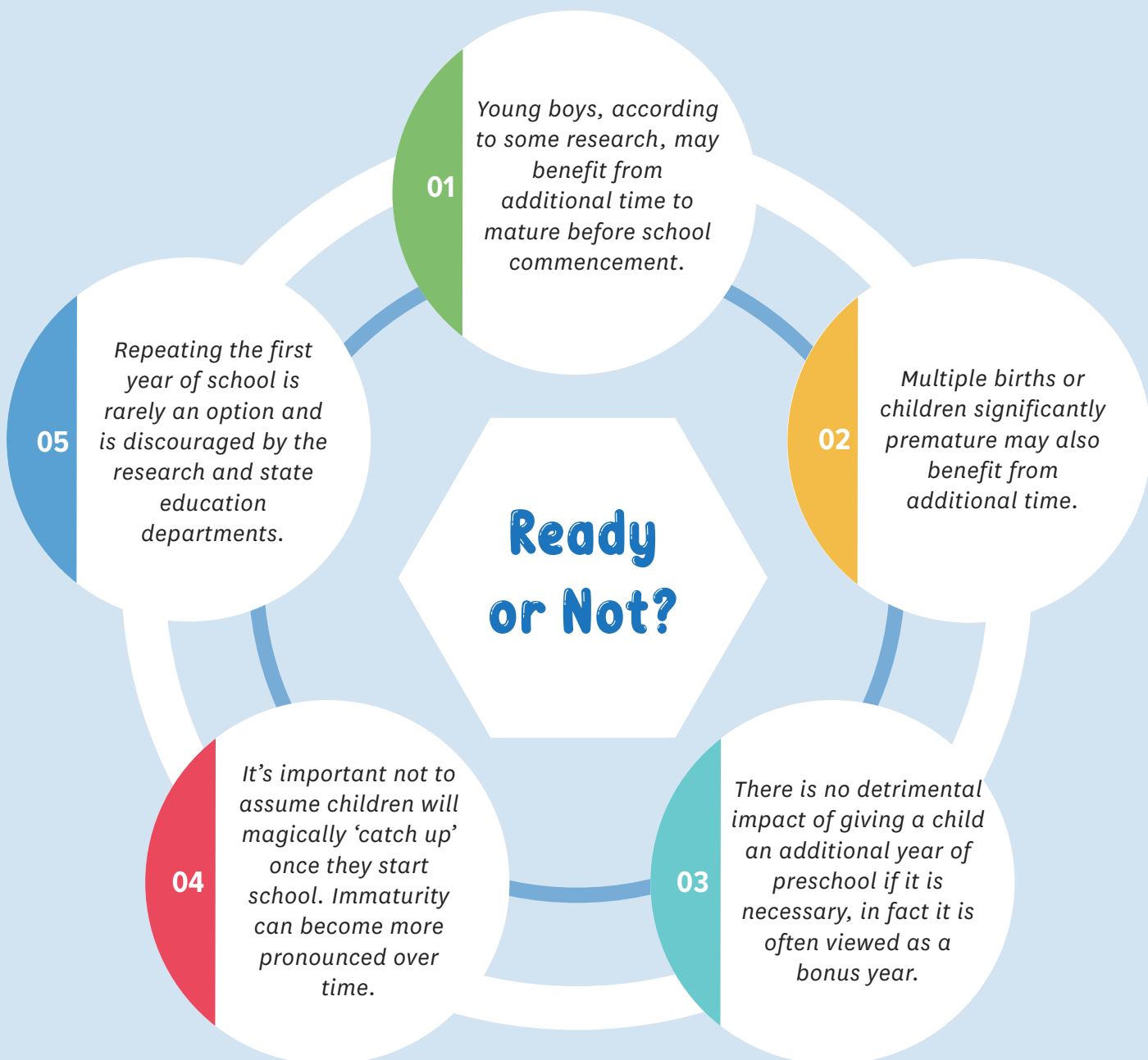
 <p>Separate easily at preschool drop off</p>	 <p>Independently make a decision of where they are going to work/play</p>	 <p>Self-initiate, engage and sustain engagement (6-8 minutes),</p>	 <p>Ask for help from the educator if needed</p>
 <p>Work and play beside other children</p>	 <p>Have basic independence skills (can put on shoes, socks, art smock and manage toileting independently)</p>	 <p>Sit with the group (e.g. mat time) and remain focused. (able to ask and answer some questions from the educator)</p>	 <p>Self regulate their emotional responses</p>

READY, SET, GO! IS THIS CHILD READY FOR KINDEGARTEN* OR SCHOOL?

* In this booklet Kindergarten refers to Preschool and the year or two before formal schooling begins.



If you already have a child in childcare or 3 or 4 year-old preschool, the qualified preschool teacher, alongside an informed parent, is usually the most able to appropriately assess a child for readiness.



IT'S A LONG JOURNEY... MAKE IT A POSITIVE ONE



We want the first year of school to be exciting, successful and not just one where the child attempts to 'cope'



Readiness for school or preschool is about having the maturity to make the *most of these early years.*



Being legally of age to start school *does not always mean the child will be ready* and does not mean that the child must start school at that time. Parents have some choice in the decision.



For further information *speak to your child's preschool teacher* or a preschool field officer - usually connected to local councils.

These suggestions may not apply to all children/families. For example, it's advisable to seek further information if you feel your child has more specific learning needs or a medical condition.

Further reading...

More detail on Readiness and specific information on Transitioning to school can be found in the following books:

Ready, Set, Go - by Kathy Walker

Emotional Milestones - by Dr Ruth Schmidt-Neven