

Benefits of 12 months of Preschool

The following is a summary of discussions at the Kirton Point Children's Centre Governing Council meeting in September 2015.
The statements come directly from parents who had a child in their third term of Preschool at Kirton Point Children's Centre.

What are the benefits of keeping your child at Preschool for 12 months (4 terms)?

- *There is a lot of growth in 12 months; they learn skills to be prepared for school.*
- *It takes a couple of terms just to settle in.*
- *School doesn't offer the same experiences such as mud play, water play, sticks, gardens, natural environment. They get real life experiences where they can learn to understand risk and consequences.*
- *Preschool is an introduction to the rules they will have to follow at school, but it's not as "full-on".*
- *When they get to their third term they are really making friends, they tell us about their day and what they are learning, they understand routines. They are also more confident and independent. They can 'shine' and really be themselves. We didn't see this in the first two terms.*
- *It takes time for educators to build relationships and understand our children.*
- *In the third and fourth term they start to learn to deal with different 'others' and they can understand emotional differences and how different children react to things differently.*
- *They need to feel good in themselves to learn.*
- *They are learning life skills and are more engaged in term 3 when they have settled in.*
- *Their interactions are more limited at school due to classes, schedules etc but at preschool they can make choices about who they interact with.*
- *Same first day means same kids, same staff and stronger bonds because they have all started at the same time.*
- *They are more likely to try new things and take risks when they are comfortable.*
- *At kindy, they are learning to socialise.*
- *They can learn protective behaviours and understand 'safety people' before they start school.*
- *Gives parents time to emotionally prepare for school.*
- *Parents can meet other parents with children a similar age and have a chance to get to know each other. By term three the children are able to share their birthdays and families know each other.*
- *Need the ongoing repetition over time to learn new things – such as Aboriginal words, sign language etc*
- *Friendship groups are established over time.*

Making decisions about school can be hard for parents. Some schools now offer an additional mid-year intake. We have compiled this document to provide you with further information to make your decision. If you would like to discuss this further, please feel free to give the Centre a call on 86825969.