

Free kindergarten for children known to Child Protection

Information for parents and carers



Quality kindergarten programs provide an important start for children. They help with their language and development, social interactions and self confidence. Kindergarten also helps to prepare them for success at school and in later life.

The things your child learns at kindergarten makes going to school easier.

Kindergarten programs are provided in stand alone centres, child care centres, children's centres and primary schools. Kindergartens are sometimes called preschools.

What is Early Start Kindergarten

Early Start Kindergarten means that eligible 3 year old children can attend a kindergarten program for up to 10.75 hours per week for free. This will apply in licensed children's services, including long day care settings, where a kindergarten program is being planned and delivered by an early childhood teacher.

Through Early Start Kindergarten, kindergarten services are encouraged to enrol the child for a place in a kindergarten program for the following year. It is important to enrol your child as early as possible.

Who is eligible?

Early Start Kindergarten is available to 3 year old children, aged at least three, by the 30th of April in the year they enrol and known to Child Protection, including those referred directly from Child Protection to Child FIRST. All 3 year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are also eligible for a kindergarten program of up to 10.75 hours per week for free.

How to Enrol

1. Locate a kindergarten in your area by visiting www.education.vic.gov.au/findaservice or contact your local council. Contact details for your local council can be found at www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/localgovernment
2. Talk directly with the kindergarten service and tell them your child is eligible for Early Start Kindergarten. Ask the service if they have a kindergarten space available for a 3 year old child. The service will then provide a kindergarten program for your child of up to 10.75 hours per week for free.
3. Ask about enrolling your child in a kindergarten program for the following year.

What about next year?

Kindergarten programs for 4 year old children will build on the strengths your child will develop when they are 3 years old.

All 4 year old children who have an eligible concession card or visa, who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or triplet or quadruplet (attending in the same year) can access 10.75 hours of kindergarten a week for free.

Further Information

For more information talk to your Child Protection or Child FIRST/ Family Services practitioner or Koorie Engagement Support Officer.



You can also contact your regional Children's Services Advisor. Contact details can be found at www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/regions.htm

For more information about Early Start Kindergarten visit www.education.vic.gov.au/kindergarten/earlystart



Multilingual resources

Brochures and posters in a variety of languages can be viewed at www.education.vic.gov.au/kindergarten/brochures

If you would like to speak with an interpreter about kindergarten, call the **Interpreter Service** on **1300 200 680**.

Interpreter Service — 1300 200 680

Amharic - የአማርኛ አስተርጓሚ አገልግሎት (19 የስልክ ቀሪ)

Arabic - للحصول على خدمات مترجم عربي (مكالمة مجانية)

Cambodian - ចំណេះដឹងអំពីសេវាបកប្រែភាសាខ្មែរ (ទូរស័ព្ទឥតគិតថ្លៃ)

Cantonese - 可獲得廣東話傳譯服務 (免費電話)

Dinka - Tënë Agamthok ë Muonjän (Kënë ee Talapun Cie Yup ë Wëu)

Filipino - Para sa serbisyong pang- interprete sa wikang Pilipino (libreng tawag)

Korean - 한국어 통역을 원하시면 (무료 통화)

Macedonian - За преведувачи на македонски (бесплатен повик)

Mandarin - 普通话传译员 (免费电话)

Nuer - Ni loorä baag a thil yiow (Free call)

Russian - Русская переводческая служба (бесплатный звонок)

Serbian - За Службу тумача на српском (бесплатан позив)

Somali - Adeega mutarjumka ee Soomaalida (lacag la'aan)

Spanish - Para Servicio de intérpretes en castellano (llamada gratuita)

Turkish - Türkçe sözlü tercümanlık hizmeti için (ücretsiz arama)

Vietnamese - Dịch vụ thông ngôn bằng tiếng Việt (điện thoại miễn phí)

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