

Free kindergarten for children known to Child Protection — Early Start Kindergarten

Information for kindergarten services



Early Start Kindergarten provides funding for 3 year old children known to Child Protection (including those referred directly from Child Protection to Child FIRST) and all three year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to access up to 10.75 hours per week of a quality kindergarten program for free.

This will apply in all licensed children's services where a kindergarten program is being planned and delivered by an early childhood teacher.*

*A list of approved qualifications is located at www.education.vic.gov.au/licensedchildservices

Things you need to know

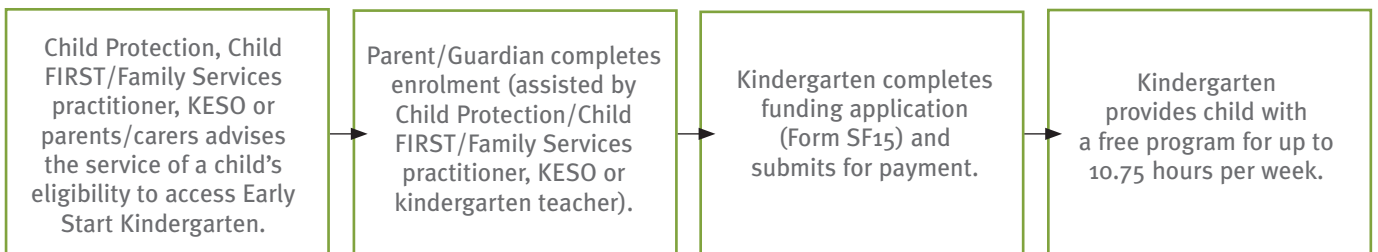
- The program **must** be planned and delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher to be eligible for the funding.

- Children must be aged at least three by 30 April in the year they enrol to be eligible for a place.
- A parent/ carer, Child Protection, Family Services/ Child FIRST practitioner or Koorie Engagement Support Officer need only advise about a child's eligibility for Early Start Kindergarten.
- To obtain funding the kindergarten service should complete SF15 Application for Early Start Kindergarten funding form and submit it to their local DEECD regional office.
- Services are encouraged to enrol a child who is in an Early Start Kindergarten place in a kindergarten program for 4 year old children for the following year.

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

Research indicates that quality early education and care programs are especially beneficial for vulnerable children.

Referral Process



Prepared by:
Department of Education &
Early Childhood Development
Level 11, 35 Spring St,
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

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