

Free or low-cost kindergarten

The kindergarten fee subsidy

Your child may be eligible for free or low cost kindergarten as part of the Victorian Government's continued commitment to early childhood education.



Is my child eligible for the kindergarten fee subsidy?

Your child is eligible for the subsidy if you or your child has a:

- Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card or Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card
- Asylum Seeker Bridging Visa A–F
- Temporary Protection/Humanitarian Visa 447, 451, 785 or 786
- Refugee and Special Humanitarian Visa 200–217
- Resolution of Status (RoS) Visa, Class CD, Subclass 851, or your child is an
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or
- Triplets or quadruplets attending kindergarten in the same year.



Free or low-cost kindergarten

You can access free kindergarten (or kindergarten at minimal cost) if you or your child has one of these concession cards or visas, your child is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or you have triplets or quadruplets attending in the same year.

This is because the Victorian Government funds a kindergarten fee subsidy to provide for 10.75 hours of a kindergarten program per week for free. If your local kindergarten program is for more than 10.75 hours per week, you may receive those extra hours for free, or you may have to pay for the extra hours only.

How do I get the kindergarten fee subsidy?

Talk to the staff and show them your concession card, visa, birth certificate or approved document*, or let them know your child is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, when you are enrolling your child in kindergarten or at the start of the kindergarten year.

The kindergarten will claim for the fee subsidy from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on your behalf. The payment is made directly to the kindergarten, so that kindergarten is free for your child or provided at a greatly reduced cost.

* You can apply for the kindergarten fee subsidy at any time during the year, even if your child moves to another kindergarten. The subsidy will be paid in full for the whole term, regardless of the date your child commences within the term.

How is kindergarten funded?

The Victorian Government funds a range of services to provide a kindergarten program to children. This funding contributes to the cost of providing a kindergarten program. Your kindergarten service is responsible for setting the fee level.



Look for this certificate when choosing a kindergarten or child care program for your four year old child.

This certificate shows that the kindergarten program has been developed and is delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher and is funded by the State Government.

For more information on the kindergarten fee subsidy go to www.education.vic.gov.au/kindergarten/feesubsidy

Why does the State Government fund kindergarten programs?

Research shows that learning in the early years lays the foundations for later learning, and that quality kindergarten programs improve subsequent learning, health and behaviour, with positive impacts extending into adult life.

The Victorian Government funds a range of services to provide a kindergarten program to support critical learning in the early years which:

- Lays the foundation for later learning
- Sets children on a path for success in education, work and later life.

What can I expect?

- A program delivered in accordance with the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework.
- A broad range of experiences for your child that cater for all areas of learning.
- Focus on knowing your child and providing experiences that match each child's needs, strengths and interests.
- Learning that will happen through your child's active participation and through play based activities and experiences.
- Preparation of a Transition Learning and Development Statement for your child's transition into school the following year.

You will be given information about your child and her or his experiences, and you will also be consulted, supported and encouraged to share your ideas and insights.

How do I find a kindergarten program?

Kindergarten programs are provided in stand alone centres, child care centres and some schools.

To find a quality kindergarten program in your area go to www.education.vic.gov.au/findaservice or contact your local council.

Contact details for your local council can be found at www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au

For more information on kindergarten visit the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website at www.education.vic.gov.au/kindergarten or you can call the Information and Referral Service on **1800 809 834**.

Interpreter Service — 1300 200 680

Amharic - በአማርኛ ለአስተርጓሚ አገልግሎት (በጻ ለመደወል)

Arabic - خدمة الترجمة الشفهية باللغة العربية (مكالمة مجانية)

Cantonese - 廣東話傳譯服務 (免費電話)

Dinka - Te kōr yin kuony de thōnjjan, keyin yuope athook de Dinka (telepun abac)

Hindi - हिंदी दुभाषिया सेवा उपलब्ध है (फ्री कॉल)

Khmer - សំរាប់សេវាបកប្រែជំនាញខ្មែរ(ឥតគិតថ្លៃ)

Korean - 한국어 통역 서비스 (무료 통화)

Macedonian - За преведувачка служба на Македонски (бесплатен повик)

Mandarin - 普通话传译服务 (免费电话)

Nuer - Ke kui lucä ke thuok Nuääri (yaat ke telepuon de ban)

Russian - Если Вам необходимы услуги переводчика с русского языка (позвоните по бесплатному номеру)

Serbian - За тумачење на српском (бесплатан позив)

Sinhalese - සිංහල භාෂා පරිවර්තන සේවා විධි (නොමිලේ ඇමතුම)

Somali - Adeegyada Turjumaanka ee af Soomaaliga ah (wicitaan lacag la'aanta ah)

Spanish - Para obtener servicios de interpretación en español (llamada gratuita)

Tagalog - Para sa serbisyong pang-interpretar sa Tagalog (libreng tawag)

Turkish - Türkçe tercümanlık servisi için (ücretsiz arama)

Vietnamese - Để liên lạc với dịch vụ thông ngôn tiếng Việt (gọi miễn phí)