

Getting started in your local kindergarten

What is kindergarten?

Kindergarten is an early learning program for children in the year before school. When attending a kindergarten program your child's self-confidence, ability to use and recognise language and physical skills are developed through play, art, dance, music, movement and interacting with others. Most importantly the kindergarten experience provides your child the opportunity to learn.

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.



Where are kindergartens located?

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

How do I find a kindergarten program?

Locate a kindergarten program in your local 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.localgovernment.vic.gov.au

How to enrol?

Enrolment can vary across services. Contact your local kindergarten or council for more information on how to enrol.

State-Funded kindergarten programs

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

Look for the kindergarten certificate on display. The certificate shows that the program has been developed and delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher and funded by the State Government.

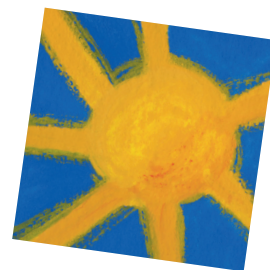


Kindergarten fee subsidy – free kindergarten

The Government provides additional funding to services so that eligible children can receive 10.75 hours per week of kindergarten at no cost. The following families and their children are entitled to the kindergarten fee subsidy:

- Concession card holders with a Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card or Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.
- People with Temporary Protection/Humanitarian Visas 447, 451, 785 and 786; Asylum Seeker Bridging Visas A–F; Refugee or Special Humanitarian Visas 200–217; and Resolution of Status (RoS) Visa, Class CD, Subclass 851.

- All three and four year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- Triplets and quadruplets attending kindergarten in the same year.



You will need to show staff your concession card or visa when you enrol your child at kindergarten.

Koorie families can ask their Koorie Engagement Support Officer to help with enrolling their child in kindergarten. To contact a Koorie Engagement Support Officer or a Children's Services Adviser, please contact your nearest regional office (listed below).

If kindergarten goes for longer than 10.75 hours per week you may have to pay a small top-up fee.

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

Find out more

For more information on kindergarten programs visit www.education.vic.gov.au/kindergarten or call your Department of Education and Early Childhood Development regional office (listed below).

Metropolitan regions

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Eastern Metropolitan Region | 9265 2400 |
| Northern Metropolitan Region | 9488 9488 |
| Western Metropolitan Region | 9291 6500 |
| Southern Metropolitan Region | 9794 3555 |

Rural regions

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Barwon South Western Region | 5225 1000 |
| Gippsland Region | 5127 0400 |
| Grampians Region | 5337 8444 |
| Hume Region | 5761 2100 |
| Loddon Mallee Region | 5440 3111 |

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 - በአማርኛ ለአስተርጓሚ አገልግሎት (በነጻ ለመደወል)

Arabic - خدمة الترجمة الشفهية باللغة العربية (مكالمة مجانية)

Cantonese - 廣東話傳譯服務 (免費電話)

Dinka - Te köör yin kuony de thönjjan, keyin yuope athook de Dinka (telepun abac)

Hindi - हिंदी दुभाषिया सेवा उपलब्ध है (फ्री कॉल)

Khmer - សំរាប់សេវាបកប្រែជាភាសាខ្មែរ(ទូរស័ព្ទឥតគិតថ្លៃ)

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 (yɔʉt 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 කතෙහ පරිවර්තන සේවා තිබේ (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-interpreter 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)

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