

# Supplement to the Victorian kindergarten policy, procedures and funding criteria 2010–12

Supplement to Section 3: Programs for four-year olds

Supplement date: November 2010

## Changes

This policy supplement provides additional information regarding the requirement for service providers to offer a funded kindergarten program of at least 10 hours and 45 minutes per week from January 2011.

All other details in Section 3 of the *Victorian kindergarten policy, procedures and funding criteria 2010–12* remain the same.

## 3.1 Overview: kindergarten funding eligibility

### Criteria for service providers

Section 3.1 of the current funding guidelines (pages 15–16) includes a list of core criteria that must be met in order for a service to be eligible to receive kindergarten funding. It includes the following two requirements:

‘The qualified staff members who plan and deliver the program to each eligible child at each children’s service from which the program is offered must hold an approved early childhood teaching qualification.’

‘The service provider must offer each eligible child enrolled at each service location a minimum of ten hours of funded kindergarten per week. From January 2011, the service provider must offer a minimum of 10 hours and 45 minutes per week. The kindergarten program should coincide with the Victorian school terms. In response to community need a service may alter the timing of term dates, but not the total of hours of kindergarten program offered.’

When these two criteria are considered together it means that any program or activity period which is **not delivered** by a qualified early childhood teacher does not count toward the minimum program hours for kindergarten funding. Services need to take this into account when establishing the session and attendance times for children.

Some examples of situations where the time cannot be counted towards the minimum program hours for kindergarten funding because a qualified teacher is not in attendance and delivering the program include:

- Wrap around care provided before or after the kindergarten session by a diploma qualified staff member who is not a qualified early childhood teacher.
- The period of the qualified teacher’s meal break during a kindergarten session when the teacher is replaced by a qualified staff member who is not a qualified early childhood teacher.

Please contact a Children’s Services Adviser at your nearest Department of Education and Early Childhood Development regional office if you have any questions in relation to this policy. A list of regional offices is provided at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/regions.htm>