

Why should my child go to a kindergarten program?

What is a kindergarten program?

A kindergarten program is an early childhood education program planned and delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher. Kindergarten programs are run in children's centres, child care centres, community kindergartens and in some schools. All children's services offering a kindergarten program that complies with the state government funding criteria will display a kindergarten certificate (see overleaf).

A broad experience

Attending a kindergarten program provides an opportunity for your child to learn about their world alongside other children. By attending a kindergarten program, your child will develop a range of life skills, including:

- working with others in a group by listening to, and respecting the ideas of others
- sharing and handling conflicts with other children
- building self awareness and confidence through play-based exploration
- developing new relationships with adults
- making new friends

Learning

Kindergarten provides a safe and supportive place for your child to explore their capacity for learning through play. Children learn at different rates, in different ways and at different times.

When attending kindergarten, your child will have the opportunity to:

- develop independence by taking part in the routines of the program
- extend their vocabulary and communication skills
- develop and enhance their reading and writing skills
- begin to explore numeracy and science
- develop future learning and enquiry skills by exploring different ways of learning and problem solving

A quality kindergarten program

A qualified early childhood teacher will plan a kindergarten program to enhance the strengths, interests and skills of each individual child in the group. The kindergarten program should link in to the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF), which identifies five learning outcomes for all children from birth to eight years. Each learning outcome is targeted to develop the kind of knowledge and skills children need to be confident and happy through their life. The Learning Framework outcomes are that children will:

- have a strong sense of identity
- be connected with and contribute to their world
- have a strong sense of wellbeing
- be confident and involved learners
- be effective communicators

Support for parents

Kindergarten gives families and carers the opportunity to get to know other families. Talk with kindergarten staff to get help with any concerns about your child and to celebrate your child's achievements. Attending kindergarten can also assist families whose child may need extra help. Through links to other local early childhood services kindergarten staff can help families to access a range of early years support services.

Supporting the transition from kindergarten to school

Attending kindergarten will help your child develop the skills necessary to flourish at school. All children attending a kindergarten program in the year before school will receive a Transition Learning and Development Statement.

Transition to school is not a point-in-time event, but an experience that extends from before the end of the kindergarten program and into the Prep year.

Your child's Transition Learning and Development Statement will help your child's Prep teacher to get to know your child before they start the new school year and to plan curriculum to support your child's learning and development when they start school.

For further information on the VEYLDF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/earlylearning/eylf

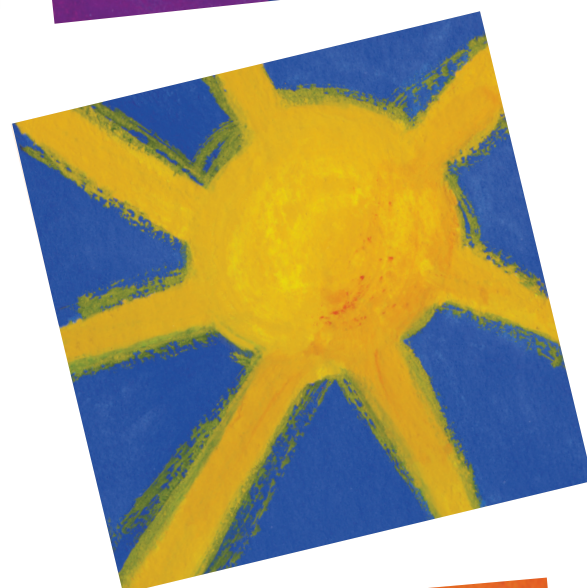
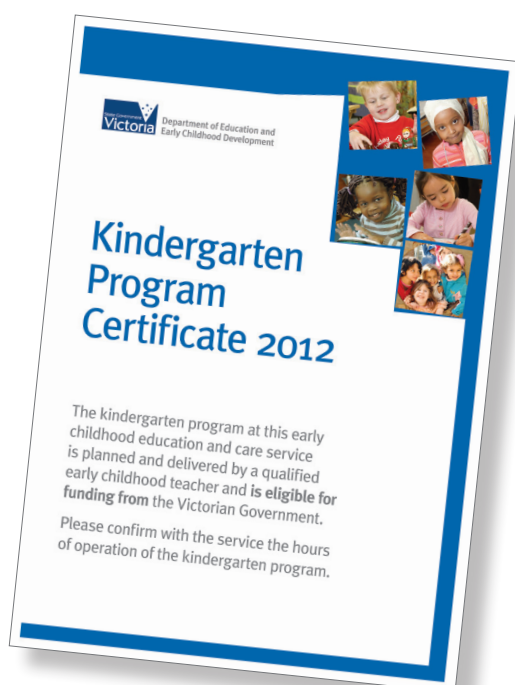
For more information on the Transition Learning and Development Statements visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/earlylearning/transitionschool



Kindergarten Certificate

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

The *Kindergarten Certificate* means that the kindergarten program at the service is planned and delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher



For more information

For more information on kindergarten programs visit www.education.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

To locate a kindergarten program in your local area visit 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

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