Why does the State Government fund kindergartens?

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 happens to your child in the early years can affect how their brain develops.

Kindergarten fee subsidy

The Government provides additional funding to services so that eligible children in the year before school can receive a 10 hour a week kindergarten program at no cost. Eligible families include those with a:

• Health Care Card

• Pensioner Concession Card

• Temporary Protection/Humanitarian Concern Visa 447, 451, 785 and 786

• Asylum Seeker Bridging visas A-F

• Refugee and Special Humanitarian visas 200-217

If you have triplets or quadruplets attending kindergarten in the same year you are also eligible for the subsidy for each child.

In a funded kindergarten program

• children are taught by a qualified early childhood teacher who works with other staff to provide important learning experiences.

• the licensed premises complies with the Children's Services Act and must meet the Children's Services Regulations.

• a kindergarten fee subsidy is paid to the kindergarten service to provide eligible families with a 10 hour kindergarten program for free.

For more information on:

• the kindergarten fee subsidy go to www.education.vic.gov.au/kindergarten/feesubsidy

• kindergarten programs in your area, get in touch with your local government or go to www.education.vic.gov.au/findakindergarten

• other early years related queries, call the hotline on 1300 731 947 (cost of a local call), or email kindergarten@edumail.vic.gov.au

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A kindergarten program will give your child many kinds of experiences. These experiences will help your child to develop and learn in all areas. Some people call this paying attention to the ‘whole child’.

Kindergarten will help your child

Among other things, a kindergarten experience gives your child the opportunity to:

- use language
- get along with others
- be confident
- draw, paint, climb, sing and dance
- enjoy learning and to be an active learner.

Your child will learn about:

- her or himself
- other people
- the world.

Your child will also learn skills and get information that will help with reading and writing.

In addition, a kindergarten experience will help your child make a successful transition to school.

What does the Kindergarten Certificate mean?

The Kindergarten Certificate means that the kindergarten program is delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher and is funded by the State Government.

What can I expect from a kindergarten program

- Your child will be offered a broad range of experiences that cater for all areas of learning.
- The focus will be on knowing your child and providing experiences that match each child’s needs, talents, strengths and interests.
- Learning will happen through your child’s active participation and through play based activities and experiences.

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.