

ALL ABOUT KINDERGARTEN

Children in Victoria can attend two years of funded kindergarten before starting school:

- Three-year-old kindergarten
- Four-year-old kindergarten

Kindergarten programs are offered through community-based kindergartens (sessional), long day care centres, early learning centres, and schools. You can choose the option that best suits your child and family.

- All funded kindergarten programs in Victoria:
- Are led by a qualified early childhood teacher
- Follow the same government learning framework
- Use play-based learning

The benefits of kindergarten

Kindergarten (also called preschool) is a program for young children delivered by a qualified early childhood educator.

Kindergarten is an important step for young children and is strongly recommended for all children.

Kindergarten improves children's health and wellbeing, helps them to develop confidence and social skills.

- Early education helps set children up for a bright future.
- Attending two years of quality kindergarten has even greater benefits.
- At kindergarten children learn skills that they'll take with them throughout their life.
- Children who go to kindergarten are more independent and confident and are more likely to make a smooth move to primary school.

What your children learn at kindergarten

Improve your child's development in:

- social skills, like how to play with other children in a calm, sharing and rewarding way
- self-awareness and respect for others
- emotional skills, for example understanding their feelings
- language, literacy and numeracy skills, such as reading stories and counting objects
- joy of learning and group activities, such as talking, drawing and making things together with other children their own age
- ability to make new friends
- exposure to new ideas and concepts.

Kindergarten also gives families:

- opportunities to meet other families and make community connections;
- access to support for children with additional needs; and
- access to other community services.

Preparing and starting kindergarten

- Be positive — talk to your child about what they will do at kindergarten.
- Borrow library books about kindergarten to read together.
- Encourage your child to dress themselves, so they can manage tasks like taking their jumper on and off.
- Visit the kindergarten or travel past it on your route home.
- Label all belongings that your child will take to kinder.
- Read over the family information the kindergarten provided to ensure everything is prepared.
- Talk to your child and establish a goodbye routine together.
- Establish a routine for kindergarten mornings — this could include a chart with pictures outlining the different steps for getting ready.
- Organise holiday play dates with friends or children who will be going to the kindergarten.
- Create a routine around sleep — at this age, children need 10 to 12 hours of sleep each night. Practice sticking to bedtime and wake up schedules in the weeks leading up to the start of kinder.



Types of kindergarten programs

- **Community-based (sessional) kindergartens**
Run on set days and times determined by the service.
- **Long day care services**
Provide full-day care with an integrated kindergarten program. These services manage their own enrolments.

Kindergarten is free at participating sessional kindergartens. Some services may charge additional levies (for example, an administration fee). A fee offset applies at long day care services. Children can access up to 15 hours of funded kindergarten.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from a refugee or asylum seeker background, and children who have had contact with Child Protection services (this includes children who were supported by the Access to Early Learning program in their three-year-old kindergarten year), can access between 16 to 25 hours per week of funded four-year-old kindergarten (Pre-Prep), or as advised by the Department of Education

From 2028, children who hold a Commonwealth concession card, or who have a parent or guardian who holds one, and children who are part of a multiple birth (triplets or more) will be eligible for up to 25 hours per week of funded four year old kindergarten (Pre Prep), or as advised by the Department of Education.

How to find a kindergarten

Look for the Kinder Tick

The Victorian Government is making it easier for families to find funded and approved kindergarten programs. The Kinder Tick helps families find a funded kindergarten program for their children.

When you see the Kinder Tick, you can be confident:

- the program will be led by a qualified teacher
- children will benefit from play-based learning
- the kindergarten program is partly funded and approved by the Victorian Government the program meets government guidelines and complies with the National Quality Framework.



How and when to register

Council operates a central registration system for three- and four-year old children at 14 community-based (sessional) kindergartens in Glen Eira. To register, visit www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

Families can also contact long day care services, early learning centres, and school-based programs directly.

Date of birth	Attend three-year-old kindergarten	Attend four-year-old kindergarten
1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022		2026
1 May 2022 to 30 April 2023	2026	2027
1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024	2027	2028

Additional services and support

Service	Contact details
Glen Eira City Council Maternal and Child Health	Email: MCHCoordination@gleneira.vic.gov.au Phone: 03 9524 3333
Early Learning Centres and school-based programs	Contact services directly
Department of Education - South Eastern Victoria	Email: serv@education.vic.gov.au ; Phone: 1300 338 788
Three-Year-Old Kindergarten Enquiry Line	Phone: 1800 338 663; Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm
Give your child the best start Victorian Government	Website: www.vic.gov.au/give-your-child-the-best-start-in-life
Kindergarten registrations	Website: www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/kindergarten Email: kindergarten@gleneira.vic.gov.au Phone: 03 9524 3333
Department of Education Find a kinder program (interactive map)	Website: https://findakinder.vic.gov.au