

ALL

ABOUT

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten programs are delivered in both long day care and standalone services.

You can choose what works best for your family and child — the kindergarten programs share the same learning outcomes. All funded kindergarten programs in Victoria are led by a qualified early childhood teacher and offer a play-based learning program based on the same government guidelines. You also have the option of using privately managed children's services, early learning centres and schools.

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; and
- 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

Some kindergartens run as standalone services (for example, community kindergartens). Other kindergarten programs are run through long day care centres or schools. Kindergarten is Government funded for two years prior to children attending school (prep). Services that offer kindergarten programs may charge additional fees.

Fees are set by individual services and can vary depending on how many hours your child attends, group size and extra costs such as excursions. Children can access up to 15 hours of funded kindergarten.

In 2026, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander children and vulnerable children will be eligible for between 16 and 30 hours per week of funded kindergarten. Vulnerable children include children from a refugee or asylum seeker background and children who have had contact with Child Protection services.

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; and
- 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 kindergartens in Glen Eira. To register, visit www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

Families can also contact Early Learning Centres and school-based programs directly.

Date of birth	Attend three-year-old kindergarten	Attend four-year-old kindergarten
1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021	2024	2025
1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022	2025	2026
1 May 2022 to 30 April 2023	2026	2027

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