

Speak with your preferred kindergarten service or local council today about how to register for a place.

To find kindergarten services, visit:
findakinder.educationapps.vic.gov.au



Best Start, Best Life reforms

The Victorian Government's \$14 billion *Best Start, Best Life* reforms are the most significant change to Victoria's early childhood sector in a generation. These reforms include:

- **Free Kinder:** Free Kinder is now available for Victorian 3- and 4-year-old children. Children enrolled in participating standalone (sessional) kindergarten services receive a free program — a saving of up to \$2,500 per child. Children enrolled in participating long day care centres will receive a fee offset of up to \$2,000 per child. A Health Care Card or Australian Citizenship is not required to access Free Kinder.
- **Three-Year-Old Kindergarten:** The roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten continues, with programs increasing to 15 hours a week across the state by 2029.

- **Pre-Prep:** Four-Year-Old Kindergarten will gradually transition to 'Pre-Prep' — increasing from 15 hours to a universal 30-hour-a-week program of play-based learning at the full roll out.
- **Early learning and childcare centres:** 50 Victorian government-owned and operated early learning and childcare centres will be built in areas with the greatest need, with the first centres opening in 2025.

To find out more visit:
vic.gov.au/best-start-best-life-reforms



Information in your language

Information is available in 30 languages about Free Kinder, the benefits of 2 years of kindergarten and how to enrol, at:
vic.gov.au/kinder/translations



Best Start
Best Life

About kindergarten in Victoria



Kindergarten programs in Victoria

Kindergarten, also known as kinder, is an early education program for young children where they learn through play.

Kindergarten programs are available in standalone (sessional) kindergarten services and long day care centres. No matter where your child goes to kindergarten, teachers and trained educators will lead the program.

In Victoria, Three-Year-Old Kindergarten programs are available 5–15 hours per week, and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten programs are available 15 hours per week. These hours will increase as part of the roll-out of the *Best Start, Best Life* reforms.

To find out more, visit:
vic.gov.au/sending-child-kinder



Benefits of 2 years of kindergarten

Two years of quality early childhood education is shown to have more impact than 1 year and can lift children's outcomes across all aspects of learning. By the time a child turns 5 years old, around 90 per cent of their brain development has occurred. Between the ages of 3 and 5, children learn important social and emotional skills, such as how to regulate their emotions and behaviour. Kindergarten

is a safe place for children to build these skills, as well as their independence and concentration, while forming positive relationships and making friends.

For these reasons, it is recommended children attend kindergarten programs for 2 years before school.

When to start kindergarten

When your child starts at kinder directly relates to the age they will start at primary school. To help you decide when a child can start kindergarten, use the Starting Age Calculator, vic.gov.au/kinder-age-calculator



Choosing and enrolling in a kindergarten service

Look for the Kinder Tick — when a Kinder Tick is displayed at an early childhood service, families can be confident that:

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

Families can register for a kindergarten program through their local council's Central Registration and Enrolment Scheme (CRES) or through their preferred service (if it is not part of a council CRES) a year before a child starts a kindergarten program.

