

# Advice for families: Free Kinder in long day care

**Free Kinder is available for all children enrolled in funded kindergarten programs at participating services.**

## Savings for families

Free Kinder provides a saving of up to \$2,050 for children enrolled in a funded kindergarten program in a long day care service:

- For 4-year-old children, this means \$2,050 for children enrolled in a 15-hour kindergarten program (600 hours a year).
- For 3-year-old children, this means from \$683.33 (for a child enrolled in the funded kindergarten program for 5 hours) to \$2,050 (for a child enrolled for 15 hours).



The funded kindergarten program is the time that the qualified early childhood teacher is in the room delivering the kindergarten program.

## Eligibility

Free Kinder is for everyone. You do not need to be an Australian citizen to receive Free Kinder. You also do not need to be eligible for the Australian Government Child Care Subsidy (CCS) to receive Free Kinder.

Your child can receive one year of Free Kinder in a Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program and one year in a Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program. Your child can only receive Free Kinder at one service at a time. Your kindergarten service will ask you to sign a form to confirm that your child is receiving their funded kindergarten program at their service.

## How to access Free Kinder savings

Your long day care service will receive the Victorian Government Free Kinder funding on your behalf. Your service will pass on the savings as a direct reduction to your out-of-pocket fees after the Commonwealth's Child Care Subsidy (CCS) is applied.

## How the savings are applied to your out-of-pocket fees

The Free Kinder savings will be applied to your fees regularly across the year (e.g. weekly or fortnightly) and you should be able to see the amount clearly labelled on your invoice as 'Victorian Government Free Kinder offset'.

Each kindergarten service can choose how often they will apply the Free Kinder saving and for the number of weeks across the year. For information on how the saving will be applied to your fees, please talk directly to your kindergarten service.

### Example

- A child attends their Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program 3 days a week.
- The kindergarten service charges \$360 for the 3 days.
- The family receives a Child Care Subsidy (CCS) of \$252.
- The kindergarten service has chosen to apply the \$2,050 Free Kinder savings weekly for 40 weeks of the year (\$51.25 per week).
- The family pays \$56.75 a week after the CCS and Free Kinder offset has been applied.

## If your child changes kindergarten services during the year

If your child moves to a different long day care service during their kindergarten year, the service that you are moving from will stop receiving the Free Kinder payment and your new long day care service will start to receive the Free Kinder payment so they can continue to pass the savings on to you.

If your child moves to a sessional kindergarten service that is participating in Free Kinder during the year, your funded kindergarten program will be free.

More information about Free Kinder in sessional services is available at [vic.gov.au/kinder](http://vic.gov.au/kinder)

