

## Free programs for eligible three year olds

If your three year old child is Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander or has been supported by Child Protection or Child FIRST, they may be eligible for up to 15 hours of a free or low cost kindergarten program. For more information visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/parents/kindergarten/Pages/earlystart.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/parents/kindergarten/Pages/earlystart.aspx)

## Early Start Kindergarten extension grant

If your child accessed the Early Start Kindergarten or the Access to Early Learning program in the previous year, you may be eligible for the Early Start Kindergarten extension grant. The extension grant applies in circumstances where the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy is not applicable and enables your child to attend a funded kindergarten program free of charge or at a minimal cost.



## Bilingual and interpreter services

Your child's kindergarten service can access the free interpreter service to help talk to you about you and your child's needs by calling **9280 1955**.

Settlement workers can also assist refugee families to find a kindergarten program.

## More information

For more information on kindergarten programs or the kindergarten fee subsidy visit the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's website at [www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/parents/kindergarten/Pages/fees.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/parents/kindergarten/Pages/fees.aspx) or contact your nearest Regional Office.

## Regional Office Contacts

Regional Office	Location	Switchboard
North-Eastern Victoria	Benalla	03 8392 9500
	Glen Waverley	03 8392 9300
North-Western Victoria	Bendigo	03 5440 3111
	Coburg	03 9488 9488
South-Eastern Victoria	Dandenong	03 8765 5600
	Moe	03 5127 0400
South-Western Victoria	Ballarat	03 5337 8444
	Geelong	03 5225 1000
	Footscray	03 8397 0300

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## Free or low-cost kindergarten

Kindergarten Fee Subsidy



## Kindergarten is an important step for your child. Through kindergarten children learn skills they will build on throughout life.

Kindergarten programs are delivered by qualified early childhood teachers and educators.

Research shows that kindergarten programs lead to improved health and wellbeing, social and learning outcomes and prepare children for the transition to school.

Children can be enrolled in a kindergarten program if they are at least four years old by 30 April in the year they will attend the kindergarten program.

Your child's kindergarten teacher will work with you to support your child's learning.

In Victoria, quality kindergarten programs are offered at long day care centres, community kindergartens and some schools.

## Kindergarten fee subsidy

Your child may be eligible for free or low-cost kindergarten as part of the Victorian Government's commitment to provide all children with access to a high-quality kindergarten program in the year before starting school.

The kindergarten fee subsidy provides eligible four-year-old children with access to a kindergarten program for up to 15 hours per week.

## Is my child eligible for free or low-cost kindergarten?

Your child will be eligible to access free or low-cost kindergarten in any of the following circumstances:

- your child is identified by a parent, carer or legal guardian as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- your child is identified on their birth certificate as being a multiple birth child (triplets or more)
- your child holds, or has a parent or guardian who holds, one of the following:
  - Commonwealth Health Care Card
  - Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card
  - Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card or White Card
  - Eligible or Asylum Seeker visa



## How do I apply?

You can talk to the staff at your kindergarten service about your child's eligibility, and show them your concession card, visa, birth certificate or other relevant document.

Your child's kindergarten will apply for the fee subsidy on your behalf. The payment will be made directly to your child's kindergarten enabling your child to receive a high-quality program for free or at a low cost.

You can apply for the kindergarten fee subsidy at any time during the year, even if your child moves to another kindergarten.

## How do I find a kindergarten for my child?

To meet the needs of individual families, kindergarten programs are offered in a number of different settings including long day care centres, community kindergartens and at some schools.

To find a kindergarten service in your area visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/findaservice/Home.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/findaservice/Home.aspx) or contact your local council. You can find the contact details of your local council by visiting [www.dtpli.vic.gov.au](http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au)