

## Kinder **sh**apes young lives.

Kindergarten shapes how children play, learn and grow. In Victoria, all children can access 2 years of kinder before school.

Major reforms in Victoria's early childhood education represent a significant transformation aimed at providing children with higher-quality learning while also supporting families and carers.

Key initiatives include:

- **FreeKinder:** Free Kinder is now available for 3-Year-Old Kinder and 4-Year-Old Kinder. Children enrolled in participating standalone (sessional) kinder services receive a free program – a saving of up to \$2,700 per child per year. Children enrolled in participating long day care centres will receive a fee offset. A Health Care Card or Australian Citizenship is not required to access Free Kinder.
- **3-Year-Old Kinder:** The roll-out of 3-Year-Old Kinder continues, with programs increasing to 15 hours a week across the state by 2029.
- **4-Year-Old Kinder:** 4-Year-Old Kinder hours are gradually increasing from 15 hours to up to 30 hours a week across Victoria by 2036.
- **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. The first centres opened in 2025.



## Information in your language.



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



To find out more, visit:  
[vic.gov.au/kinder](https://vic.gov.au/kinder)



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Department  
of Education



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

# About **K**indergarten in Victoria.



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## 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) kinder services and long day care centres. No matter where your child goes to kindergarten, teachers and trained educators will lead the program.

In Victoria, 3-Year-Old Kinder programs are available 5–15 hours per week, and 4-Year-Old Kinder 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/kinder](https://vic.gov.au/kinder)**

## Benefits of 2 years of kinder.

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 kinder programs for 2 years before school.

## When to start kinder.

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](https://vic.gov.au/kinder)**

## Choosing a kinder service and enrolling.



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 kinder 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 kinder program.

- Speak with your preferred kinder service to register for a place.
- To find kinder services, see: **[findakinder.vic.gov.au](https://findakinder.vic.gov.au)**

