

4-Year-Old Kinder hours are increasing.

4-Year-Old Kinder programs across Victoria are gradually increasing from 15 to 30 hours each week. By 2036, children across Victoria will have access to up to 30 hours of kinder.

This increase in hours is also known as 'Pre-Prep'.

Programs will continue to be delivered in standalone (sessional) kinders and long day care services. Kinder programs use play-based learning and are led by qualified teachers.

The additional hours mean even greater access to the many benefits of early childhood education.

Benefits for children.

More hours of learning in the year before school gives more time for children to deepen their learning and development.

More hours of play-based learning at kinder can lead to:

- improved learning and social outcomes
- increased literacy and numeracy
- positive self-regulation and social skills.



Benefits of 2 years of early childhood education.

When children access 2 years of quality early learning before school, it has many benefits, especially for those who need additional support.

Between the ages of 3 and 5, children learn important social and emotional skills. Kinder is a safe place for children to build these skills, their independence and concentration while forming positive relationships and making friends.

Studies show that children who attended 2 years of kindergarten had better development in language, prereading and early number concepts.

Cost of kinder.

4-Year-Old Kinder is free at participating standalone (sessional) kinder services across Victoria. Families who enrol their children at a long day care centre will receive a fee offset.



Learn about more free hours at kinder at vic.gov.au/free-kinder



@earlychildhoodvic



Department
of Education



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

More hours of 4-Year-Old Kinder.



Department
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Introduction.

The Victorian Government's early childhood education reforms are the biggest changes to Victoria's kindergarten programs in a generation.

These reforms give Victorian children – regardless of their life circumstances, background or postcode – access to 2 years of quality early learning before they start primary school.



Roll-out schedule.

More hours of 4-Year-Old Kinder are gradually rolling out across Victoria. By 2036, children across the state will have access to up to 30 hours of 4-Year-Old kinder.

Early access to these additional hours is already available in some regional areas and for specific groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from refugee backgrounds, and children who have had contact with Child Protection, regardless of their location in Victoria.

2025 launch LGAs

- Ararat Rural City
- Gannawarra Shire
- Hindmarsh Shire
- Murrindindi Shire
- Northern Grampians Shire
- Yarriambiack Shire

2026 launch LGAs and priority groups

- Benalla Rural City
- Buloke Shire
- Corangamite Shire
- East Gippsland Shire
- Horsham Rural City
- Loddon Shire
- Mansfield Shire
- Mitchell Shire
- Pyrenees Shire
- Strathbogie Shire
- Wangaratta Rural City
- Wodonga City

Available across Victoria to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from a refugee or asylum seeker background and children who have had contact with Child Protection services.

2027 launch LGAs

- Alpine Shire
- Central Goldfields Shire
- Colac-Otway Shire
- Glenelg Shire
- Indigo Shire
- Moira Shire
- Moorabool Shire
- Moyne Shire
- South Gippsland Shire
- Southern Grampians Shire
- Swan Hill Rural City
- West Wimmera Shire

2028 launch LGAs and priority groups

- Bass Coast Shire
- Baw Baw Shire
- Campaspe Shire
- Golden Plains Shire
- Greater Shepparton City
- Hepburn Shire
- Latrobe City
- Macedon Ranges Shire
- Mildura Rural City
- Mount Alexander Shire
- Queenscliff Borough
- Surf Coast Shire
- Towong Shire
- Warrnambool City
- Wellington Shire

Available across Victoria to children who have (or have a parent or guardian who has) a Commonwealth concession card and children from a multiple birth (triplets or more).



For details of planned roll out from 2029 to 2036 and further information, please refer to vic.gov.au/more-kinder

Find out when **your child** is eligible.



Find out when your child is eligible for more hours of 4-Year-Old Kinder by using the calculator available at vic.gov.au/kinder-calculator