

Immunisation

Immunisation is one of the safest and most effective ways to prevent illness.

When your child turns four, he or she is due for one booster vaccine for diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough)-poliomyelitis.

Having this immunisation as soon as possible after the fourth birthday boosts protection for your child against those diseases.

Before enrolment into child care or kindergarten, you must provide an immunisation history statement to show your child's immunisations are up to date.

When you enrol your child in primary school, you are required to provide the school with a School Entry Immunisation Status Certificate, which is a record of your child's immunisation.

You can get your child's Immunisation History Statement and your child's School Entry Immunisation Status Certificate from:

- Medicare online accounts or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app
- calling the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) on 1800 653 809
- emailing the AIR on acir@medicareaustralia.gov.au and request a posted statement
- visit a Centrelink office
- ask your local council immunisation service
- or ask your local doctor.

A statement of your child's immunisation history will be sent to you from the AIR after your child has completed all childhood immunisations.

Is your child 3–4 years old?



For more information

For more information about kindergarten, maternal and child health services or immunisation, contact your local council. Contact details for your local council can be found on the following website:

The Department of Education and Training:
www.education.vic.gov.au/earlychildhood

Is your child 3–4 years old?

The early years of your child's life are an important time for learning, growth and development. The Victorian Government funds a range of services for children and families that help all parents give their child the best start in life.

When your child is between three and four years of age, three important things to do are:

- visit the maternal and child health nurse for the 3.5 year visit
- enrol in a kindergarten program for the year before school
- check immunisations are up to date.



Maternal and Child Health – the 3.5 year old health visit for all children

The Maternal and Child Health Service offer a free 3.5 year visit to ensure your child is given the best start to kindergarten and school

At this 3.5 year visit you can discuss concerns and talk about your parenting experiences. This visit will focus on health, growth, learning and development, nutrition, safety, care of teeth, kindergarten information and immunisation. The maternal and child health nurse will perform a vision test on your child.

To ensure your child doesn't miss out on this 3.5 year Maternal and Child Health visit, contact your local council. To find your local Maternal and Child Health Centre please visit the Department of Education and Training's Find a Service website.

Visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/findaservice

The 3.5 year key ages and stage visit meets the requirements of the Commonwealth Government's Healthy Start for School Initiative.

Kindergarten – for all children

A kindergarten program offers your child opportunities to make friends, be creative, become more confident and independent, learn new things, improve skills and gain new ones. You also benefit from meeting other parents in the community.

- Kindergarten programs may operate in different settings where children's services are offered, including child care centres, kindergarten centres and some schools.
- They are run by qualified early childhood teachers.
- Your child must be four years old by 30 April to attend a kindergarten program that year.
- Before enrolment, you must provide an immunisation history statement to show your child's immunisations are up to date.
- To enrol your child in a kindergarten program, contact your local child care centre, kindergarten, maternal and child health nurse or your local council.
- A fee subsidy is available to eligible families.

