

## When can my child start kindergarten?

In Victoria, all Aboriginal children can go to kindergarten if they turn three by 30 April in the year they start kindergarten.

To help you decide when a child should start kindergarten, use the **Starting Age Calculator**, [vic.gov.au/kinder-age-calculator](https://vic.gov.au/kinder-age-calculator).

## Where can I find a kindergarten for my child?

Kindergarten programs are offered at standalone kindergarten services, most long day care centres, and some local schools.

To find a kindergarten program in your local area, visit:

**findakinder.educationapps.vic.gov.au** or call your local council.

You can also call the **Three-Year-Old Kindergarten Enquiry Line** on 1800 338 663.

“Kindergarten is really important for our children’s learning and development as well as interacting with other children to support their social, emotional and cultural wellbeing.”

**Aunty Kayleen**



## Enrol today

Learn more at [vic.gov.au/koorie-kids-shine](https://vic.gov.au/koorie-kids-shine) or contact:



# Koorie Kids Shine

[vic.gov.au/koorie-kids-shine](https://vic.gov.au/koorie-kids-shine)



Department  
of Education



## What is Koorie Kids Shine?

Koorie Kids Shine promotes the value of kindergarten for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Aboriginal families can access 15 hours per week of free or low-cost kindergarten via Koorie Kids Shine through the Early Start Kindergarten grant.

## What is kindergarten?

Kindergarten programs have a qualified teacher and run for 15 hours per week. In a kindergarten program, children use play to build their language skills and learn about numbers and patterns. Teachers and educators help children become curious, creative and confident learners.



## How much does kindergarten cost?

### Free kindergarten

Aboriginal children aged three and four can access 15 hours of free or low-cost kindergarten per week.

For children at long day care, there might be some costs for additional hours above the 15 hours of free kindergarten.

Families might be able to receive Commonwealth Government subsidies to cover some or all of these costs. For information about these subsidies, please contact Centrelink.

## What happens at kindergarten?



At kindergarten, your child can:

- learn through play, art, music and dance
- learn to express themselves in a safe, inclusive and caring environment
- learn how to get along with others, share, listen, and manage their emotions
- build skills and confidence to prepare them for school.

Kindergarten programs are taught by qualified teachers who create culturally safe places for Aboriginal children and families, through including Aboriginal perspectives in the learning program and environment.

**“** I sent my children to kinder because I wanted them to be ready for school. Kinder made them smart, proud, strong and resilient. Now they're sending their children, too. **”**

**Aunty Esme**

