

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE ABOUT EARLY START KINDERGARTEN FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN?

For more information about Early Start Kindergarten, visit <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/parents/kindergarten/pages/earlystart.aspx> or contact the Koorie Engagement Support Officers in your nearest Department of Education & Training office. See contact details below.

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
	Greensborough	03 8468 9200
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



Published by
 Department of Education and Training
 Melbourne
 February 2018 (Revised)
 © State of Victoria

EARLY START KINDERGARTEN FOR ALL ABORIGINAL CHILDREN



WHY IS KINDERGARTEN IMPORTANT?

Kindergarten programs help children with their language, development and self-confidence. Research shows an early start and more time at kindergarten prepares children for success at school and has a positive impact later in life.

WHAT IS EARLY START KINDERGARTEN?

Early Start Kindergarten provides free or low cost kindergarten to eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander three year old children where programs are offered by a qualified teacher.

Some services will be able to offer your child a place in a program for four year olds or a mixed age group.

Applications for Early Start Kindergarten funding are made by the kindergarten service on your behalf and the grant is paid directly to the service.

IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Your child is eligible if they are aged three by 30 April in the year they will be attending kindergarten, and your child is an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

HOW DO I ENROL MY CHILD?

You can enrol your child by contacting a kindergarten service near you and asking to access Aboriginal Early Start Kindergarten. Alternatively a Koorie Engagement Support Officer (KESO) in your nearest Department of Education & Training office can help you apply. See back page for contact details of regional offices.



To find a kindergarten service or child care centre with a funded program in your area visit www.education.vic.gov.au/findaservice or contact your local council. You can find out the phone number for your local council by visiting www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au.

SHOULD MY CHILD GO TO FOUR YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN AS WELL?

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are eligible for two years of free or low cost kindergarten before starting school regardless of whether they are enrolled in sessional or integrated long day care services. Four year old kindergarten will build on the strengths your child develops when they are three years old.

Try to enrol your child for four year old kindergarten as early as possible to make sure your child gets a place as places at your preferred kindergarten are not guaranteed.