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Dear parent/guardian

**Important information regarding your child’s 2023 free kindergarten program**

The Victorian Government provides funding to support children to access a high quality kindergarten program in the two years before they start school. This helps to ensure that all Victorian children get the best start in life.

**From 2023, the Victorian Government is making kindergarten programs free for three and four-year-old children – saving you up to $2,000 per year for each year of a kindergarten program your child attends in an integrated long day care setting. Free Kinder is a critical component of the Victorian Government’s Best Start, Best Life reform.**

**By providing Free Kinder for kindergarten programs in long day care, the Victorian Government is ensuring parents are supported to access a program in a flexible setting that fits around work and other commitments.**

Funding to deliver Free Kinder is provided to our centre directly from the Victorian Government, so you will not be out of pocket (and do not have to claim the savings back).

The Victorian Government’s Free Kinder payments will be deducted from the fees that you pay, up to a value of $2,000 for a 15-hour program. If your child is enrolled in a Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program for less than 600 hours per year, Free Kinder will be applied on a pro-rata basis.

Your child can only be funded for a kindergarten program place at one service at any one time and only for one year in a Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program and one year in a Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program (unless your child is assessed as being eligible for a second year of Four-Year-Old Kindergarten by your child’s kindergarten teacher).

In 2023, your child is enrolled to attend our [Three-Year-Old Kindergarten/Four-Year-Old Kindergarten] program. We can only claim kindergarten funding including Free Kinder payments for your child if this is the only Victorian Government funded kindergarten program they are enrolled in.

**Please sign below and return this form to acknowledge that your child is accessing their [Three-Year-Old/Four-Year-Old] funded kindergarten place at our service in 2023.**

If your child will be attending another service that offers a Victorian Government funded kindergarten program, you must tell that service that you are receiving a funded kindergarten place at our service.

Kind regards

[INSERT SERVICE NAME]

I confirm that my child will be accessing their funded kindergarten place at this service in 2023.

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| Name of service: | |
| Date: | Child name: |
| Parent name: | Signature: |