# How to Apply for the early start kindergarten extension Grant

Quick Reference Guide

## About the early start kindergarten extension grant

The Department provides Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) extension grants to assist Aboriginal children and children known to Child Protection to access a free kindergarten program in the year before school.

The ESK extension grant is only available for children who are not eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy. The ESK extension grant is available for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. It is also available for children who previously accessed an Early Start Kindergarten grant or participated in an Access to Early Learning program. The ESK extension grant is paid in addition to the kindergarten per capita grant for eligible children.

Eligibility criteria for the ESK extension grant are outlined in [*The Kindergarten Funding Guide*.](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/funding/Pages/kinderfundingcriteria.aspx)

Note: The **Early Start Kindergarten extension grant** is for children in the year before school.

The **Early Start Kindergarten** grant is for children in the year two years before school. For information about how to apply for the **Early Start Kindergarten** grant see the Quick Reference Guide: [*How to Add, Edit or Remove an Early Start Kindergarten Enrolment*](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/funding/qrg16earlystart.docx)

## Add enrolments

1. Follow the instrucitons in the Quick Reference Guide: [*How to Add, Edit or Remove an enrolment in the Year Before School*](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/funding/qrg9enrolments.docx)to add children as enrolments in the funded kindergarten program for children in the year before school - the application for the ESK extension grant is made by completing information within the **Child Details** section.

## Apply for the ESK extension Grant for an aboriginal child

1. When adding or editing enrolments (see Quick Reference Guide: [*How to Add, Edit or Remove an enrolment in the Year Before School*](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/funding/qrg9enrolments.docx)) ensure that the child’s indigenous status is accurate by selecting the appropriate option to the question:

**Has this child been identified by a parent, carer or legal guardian as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin?**

* No
* Yes, Aboriginal
* Yes, Torres Strait Islander
* Yes, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
1. Answer the following question in the Early Start Kindergarten Participation section:

**Did this child receive an Early Start Kindergarten grant or Aboriginal Early Start kindergarten grant, or attend an Access to Early Learning service in the previous year?**

If ‘Yes’, go to step 4.

If ‘No’ or ‘Unknown’, skip to step 5.

1. Indicate which type of grant the child received in the previous year and whether the program was delivered by your service.

**Which grant type did this child receive in 2018?**

* **Aboriginal Early Start grant**
* **Early Start Kindergarten grant (children known to child protection)**
* **Eligible for both Aboriginal Early Start and Early Start Kindergarten grants**
* **Attended an Access to Early Learning program**

**Was the program delivered by this service?**

* **Yes**
* **No**

If the program was not delivered by your service, select “No” and indicate the name of the service that delivered the program, if known, or type “Unknown”.

If the child *is not* eligible for Kindergarten Fee Subsidy, select ‘Yes’ to the following question in order to apply for the Early Start Kindergarten extension grant:

**If this child is NOT eligible for a Kindergarten Fee Subsidy, do you wish to apply for an Early Start Kindergarten extension grant?**

* **Yes**
* **No**
1. If the child *is* eligible for Kindergarten Fee subsidy, select ‘No’ to the above question and follow the instructions for applying for Kindergarten Fee Subsidy in the Quick Reference Guide: [*How to Add, Edit or Remove an enrolment in the Year Before School*](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/funding/qrg9enrolments.docx)

**Note:** Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (KFS) is available for eligible children enrolled in a funded kindergarten program in the year before school. However, children enrolled in long day care services are not eligible for KFS if Child Care Subsidy or Additional Child Care Subsidy is applied for the time spent in the kindergarten program.

The Early Start Kindergarten extension grant is only available for children who are not eligible for KFS but who previously received an Early Start Kindergarten grant/participated in the Access to Early Learning program OR are identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Children should receive *either* ESK extension grant OR Kindergarten Fee Subsidy and should not receive both at the same time.

## Apply for the ESK extension Grant for a child known to Child Protection

1. Answer the following question:

**Did this child receive an Early Start Kindergarten grant or Aboriginal Early Start kindergarten grant, or attend an Access to Early Learning service in the previous year?**

If ‘Yes’, continue to step 2.

If ‘No’ or ‘Unknown’: If the child is known to Child Protection, including children in Out-of-Home Care, and did not participate in or you are unsure if they participated i, Early Start Kindergarten or Access to Early Learning in the previous year please contact your DET regional office for guidance.

1. Indicate which type of grant the child received in the previous year and whether the program was delivered by your service.

**Which grant type did this child receive in 2018?**

* **Aboriginal Early Start grant**
* **Early Start Kindergarten grant (children known to child protection)**
* **Eligible for both Aboriginal Early Start and Early Start Kindergarten grants**
* **Attended an Access to Early Learning program**

**Was the program delivered by this service?**

* **Yes**
* **No**

If the program was not delivered by your service, select “No” and indicate the name of the service that delivered the program, if known, or type “Unknown”.

If the child *is not* eligible for Kindergarten Fee Subsidy, select ‘Yes’ to the following question in order to apply for the Early Start Kindergarten extension grant:

**If this child is NOT eligible for a Kindergarten Fee Subsidy, do you wish to apply for an Early Start Kindergarten extension grant?**

* **Yes**
* **No**
1. If the child *is* eligible for Kindergarten Fee subsidy, select ‘No’ and follow the instructions for applying for Kindergarten Fee Subsidy in the Quick Reference Guide: [*How to Add, Edit or Remove an enrolment in the Year Before School*](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/funding/qrg9enrolments.docx)

**Note**: Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (KFS) is available for eligible children enrolled in a funded kindergarten program in the year before school. However, children enrolled in long day care services are not eligible for KFS if Child Care Subsidy or Additional Child Care Subsidy is applied for the time spent in the kindergarten program.

The Early Start Kindergarten extension grant is only available for children who are not eligible for KFS but who previously received an Early Start Kindergarten grant, participated in the Access to Early Learning program OR are identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Children should receive either ESK extension grant OR Kindergarten Fee Subsidy and should not receive both at the same time.