

When can my child start kinder?

In Victoria, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children can go to kinder if they turn three by 30 April in the year they start kinder.

To help you decide when a child should start kinder, use the Starting Age Calculator, vic.gov.au/kinder-age-calculator.



Where can I find a kinder for my child?

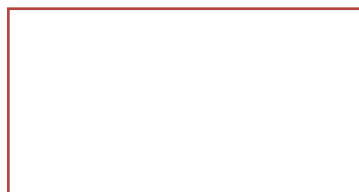
Kinder programs are offered at standalone (or sessional) kinder services, most long day care centres, and some local schools.

To find a kinder program in your local area, visit: findakinder.vic.gov.au or call your local council.

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

Enrol today

Learn more at vic.gov.au/koorie-kids-shine or contact:



Koorie Kids Shine

Enrol your child for 2026



Department
of Education



Koorie Kids Shine – Kinder (kindergarten) for Aboriginal children

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

What is kinder?

At kinder, children use play to learn, grow and develop. Teachers and educators help children become curious, creative and confident learners.

Research has shown that early education helps set children up for a bright future. In kinder they learn skills that they will take with them throughout their life.



Respecting cultural identity at kinder

Kinders work hard to create culturally safe places for Koorie children and families and include Aboriginal perspectives in the learning curriculum and environment.

Kinder classes often have children from different cultures and backgrounds.

In kinder your child will learn to build their own sense of identity and how their own culture relates to the diversity in the world around them.

“ 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, a proud Bangerang,
Taungurung and Wiradjuri woman**



What happens at kinder?



Kinder is a program where your child will be able to have fun and learn through experiences and activities such as dance, movement and art, as well as building the skills they need for reading, writing and maths when they start school.

At kinder, your child will:

- build their sense of identity
- explore how they fit into the world around them
- learn how to communicate with others
- strengthen their physical, social and emotional wellbeing
- feel confident in learning and trying new things.

More hours, more learning, more play with Pre-Prep

From 2025, Four-Year-Old Kindergarten is transitioning to Pre-Prep, with kindergarten programs across Victoria gradually increasing from 15 to 30 hours each week.

From 2026, Pre-Prep will be available statewide for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children for up to 25 hours per week. This means more hours of learning through play in a safe, inclusive and caring environment.