THE EDUCATION STATE

VICTORIA State Government | Education and Training

THREE-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN
TEACHING TOOLKIT

Congratulations on being part of the first group of early childhood leaders, teachers and educators involved in the roll-out of funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten.

The Three-Year-Old Kindergarten Teaching Toolkit resources (Toolkit resources) will support you in delivering educational programs appropriate to the learning and development outcomes of children participating in Three-Year-Old Kindergarten programs, including in both single and multi-aged groups.

The Toolkit resources include tip-sheets, posters, books and online professional learning vouchers.

3-YEAR-OLD KINDER
Best Start
Best Life

Drawing on research and advice from early childhood experts as well as experienced early childhood leaders and educators, the critical areas for children's learning and teacher practice included are:

REFLECTIVE PRACTICE
program planning and practice

ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING
younger children's development

WELLBEING
executive function and self-regulation, secure transitions, routines

COMMUNICATION
oral language, literacy and numeracy

ENVIRONMENTS FOR LEARNING
inclusion, physical spaces, materials

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS
with families, with other professionals

The Toolkit resources are provided to support services in their work with children, families, colleagues and other professionals. They will be complemented by professional learning and online content.

The Toolkit resources should be used in conjunction with the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF), the approved learning and development framework for professionals working with children aged from birth to eight years.

The Toolkit is divided into six focus areas:

- **reflective practice** to support critical thinking and practice change
- **assessment for learning** focusing on children participating in a Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program to scaffold learning and support intentional teaching
- **wellbeing** and support for children to learn about regulating emotions, thinking skills, navigating transitions and becoming more independent with daily routines
- **communication** and the importance of language development and foundations of literacy and numeracy
- **environments for learning** that make a difference to how children function and learn across the day
- **collaborative partnerships** that focus on working with families and other professionals to support continuity of learning.

REFLECTIVE PRACTICE – PROGRAM PLANNING AND PRACTICE

Letters to Carla … about 3 year olds: This book is a series of letters from an experienced early childhood teacher sharing her knowledge of how three-year-olds think and learn.

Fact sheet: This fact sheet provides a summary of the evidence of the benefits of two years of kindergarten.

Powerful Interactions – How to connect with children to extend their learning: This reflective guide supports understanding about what 'powerful interactions' are, how to make them happen, and why they are important in increasing children's learning.

Tip sheet #1 Collaborative teaching, teaching as a team: This tip-sheet provides ideas on working collaboratively and recognising the skills and knowledge of all educators.

Tip sheet #2 Learning in a larger group, teaching strategies to support engagement: This tip-sheet provides strategies on teaching and learning in larger group sizes.

Tip sheet #6 Multi-age groups, working with mixed age groups: This tip-sheet provides information about how multi-age groups can provide unique opportunities for children's learning and development.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Using critical reflection – ECA voucher for an online learning module

ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING – YOUNGER CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT

Assessment of Children as Confident and Capable Learners Literature Review: This resource supports identifying and assessing children's progress towards the VEYLDF Outcome: 'Children are confident and involved learners'.

Birth and Beyond – Meaningful practice for babies and toddlers: This resource supports educators to understand the specific needs and priorities of this age and how to transfer this knowledge into meaningful environments, practice and programs.

Child Development – The developing child, communicating skilfully and nurturing competent learners: This resource focuses on three key areas: the developing child, the child as a skillful communicator and the child as a competent learner.

Health and Wellbeing – Growing and developing physical and emotional wellbeing: This guide invites educators to reflect on the three strands of: growing and developing, physical wellbeing and emotional wellbeing.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Laying the Foundations eLearning – Murdoch Children's Research Institute voucher for online learning

WELLBEING – EXECUTIVE FUNCTION AND SELF-REGULATION, SECURE TRANSITIONS, ROUTINES

Everyday Learning – Executive function in the early years: This booklet helps educators to understand the importance and foundations of executive function and how children's development can be supported.

Secure transitions – Supporting children to feel secure, confident and included: This booklet describes secure transitions as about relationships rather than just managing procedures. It covers attachment, making space to 'be with' children, transitions and separations, and supporting children from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Wellbeing Literature Review: This review outlines children's trajectory of wellbeing, and the learning environments and responsive interactions that support the development of wellbeing.

Wellbeing Practice Guide: This guide has scenarios and learning activities focused on particular wellbeing dispositions.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Routines and Transitions: embracing opportunities for learning – ECA voucher for an online learning module
- Supporting children's self-regulation: birth to three years – ECA voucher for an online learning module
- Supporting children's self-regulation: three to five years – ECA voucher for an online learning module

COMMUNICATION – ORAL LANGUAGE, LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Communication Literature Review: This review outlines children's trajectory of communication development and the different modes and components of language.

Communication Practice Guide: This guide provides information to deepen understanding about the importance of communication development and strategies for supporting positive communication for children from birth to eight years.

Early Childhood Literacy Toolkit Poster: This poster is an illustrative map of the online Literacy Teaching Toolkit, which has practical advice about the learning and teaching of language and literacy skills.

Early Childhood STEM Habits of Mind Guide and Poster: This resource provides an overview of the Early Childhood STEM Habits of Mind and how they might be used. Each habit is unpacked with examples of what it might look like in early childhood settings.

From Lullabies to Literature: Stories in the Lives of Infants and Toddlers: This resource provides practical strategies for promoting language and literacy, linking these to developmental milestones.

Indigenous First Discovery Pack: This resource includes three board books – Animals, People and Places, At the Billabong and an Indigenous First Discovery Teachers Guide. The board books introduce symbols from Aboriginal culture and is suitable for three-year-olds.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Maths is everywhere – ECA voucher for an online learning module
- STEM in early childhood – ECA voucher for an online learning module
- Supporting Language in the Early Years – ECA voucher for an online learning module

ENVIRONMENTS FOR LEARNING – INCLUSION, PHYSICAL SPACES, MATERIALS

Children's Imagination: Creativity Under Our Noses: This book presents observations of children's imaginative and creative thinking. It explores what sparks children's imagination and reflects on how to nourish and support children's creative thinking.

Wall Friezes: These resources provide illustrations and ideas for engaging in play with young children on topics such as imaginative play, music and reading.

Just Discover! This resource provides experiences for connecting young children with the natural world with an emphasis on hands-on, play-based learning opportunities.

Just Imagine! This resource provides an understanding of how to establish stimulating creative play experiences for children.

Just Investigate! This resource provides science and technology experiences for young children with an emphasis on hands-on, play-based learning opportunities.

Just Improvise! This resource has practical ideas for providing innovative play experiences for children. Educators are supported to find new ways and reasons to improvise in creating learning environments.

Tip sheet #3 Utilising physical and social environments to maximise learning: This tip-sheet provides information about the role of the learning environment and strategies to support educators to create dynamic and powerful learning spaces.

Tip sheet #4 A place for everyone: responding effectively to every child: This tip-sheet provides strategies for supporting all children to be fully engaged and participate in the learning program.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Environments for Learning: indoor learning spaces – ECA voucher for an online learning module
- Outdoor Learning – ECA voucher for an online learning module

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS – WITH FAMILIES, WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS

Literacy and Numeracy Tips – To help your child every day, A Guide for Parents of Children aged 0-12: This booklet provides tips on practical ways to help children develop literacy and numeracy skills at home.

Making Links Parent Partner – A Guide for Parents about What Matters in Early Childhood Services: This booklet highlights what really matters for children and their families in early childhood services.

Tip sheet #5 Secure relationships: creating strong connections and building relationships with all children and families: This tip-sheet provides ideas to support the development of strong connections and secure relationships.

Tip sheet #7 Kindergarten access for all children, ensuring the sector is responsive to the community: This tip-sheet provides ideas to support access to high-quality, responsive learning environments for all children.

For comments or questions about these resources please contact:
3YO.teaching.toolkit@education.vic.gov.au

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