

'When should I enrol my child for kinder'?

The new Victorian State Government initiative is providing two years of kindergarten for every Victorian child and here's some things you should know....

Two years of kindergarten are better than one



Starting a quality kindergarten program at an earlier age leads to even more positive effects on child development



Children who attend a kindergarten program are less likely to be developmentally vulnerable at school



Quality play-based learning is a powerful way to support learning and development



At kindergarten, children learn key skills for life, including creative thinking, social and emotional skills, and early literacy and language skills

When should I enrol my child into kinder?

We have had several inquiries from parents with younger children (children who have a birthday between January and April) regarding whether they should enrol in 3-year-old or 4-year-old kinder. From 2022, all children will receive 2 years of funded kinder. The first year of funding will be 3-year-old kinder and the second year will be in 4-year-old kinder. To be eligible to enrol for funded 3-year-old kinder a child must turn 3 by 30th of April in the year of attendance. Children born between 1 January and 30 April are eligible to attend 3-year-old kindergarten in either the year they turn three or the year they turn four. Children may not be able to attend until they turn 3 in the programs where the centre is unable to meet the educator to child ratio for children who are two years of age.

Who should I talk to if I am unsure about when to enrol?

For further information, please talk to the Early Childhood Teacher at the centre you wish to enrol at. You can also find information for parents about the new initiative here:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/give-your-child-the-best-start-in-life>

What if my child needs an additional third year of kinder?

Only children who meet the criteria, (ie: they have at least two identified areas of developmental need); will be able to access one additional year of 4-year-old kindergarten prior to starting school. This process is undertaken in consultation with the Early Childhood Teacher and other supporting agencies such as the Preschool Field Officer. The teacher will make a recommendation to the family if there is a significant area of need and a third year of kindergarten is recommended.