



Fact sheet for service providers

The Ballarat Central Kindergarten Registration Scheme

The Central Kindergarten Registration (CKR) scheme is a centralised system, administered by the City of Ballarat, to allocate kindergarten places on behalf of participating kindergarten services. The CKR scheme was established to ensure access to a fair, equitable and timely system for kindergarten registrations for the general population, as well as focusing on priority of access for families experiencing vulnerability and/or disadvantage.

Currently, more than 30 local kindergartens participate in the Central Kindergarten Registration Scheme. A Kindergarten Provider List is available at the City of Ballarat website ballarat.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

If you would like more information or would like to join the CKR scheme, please contact the CKR scheme officer on 5320 5720 or email: kindergarten@ballarat.vic.gov.au

There are four simple steps to get your child into kindergarten, and lots of help along the way!

STEP 1. REGISTER 	STEP 2. WAIT FOR YOUR OFFER 	STEP 3. CONFIRM YOUR PLACE 	STEP 4. ENROL 
<p>You can register your child from the January of the year they turn 2 years old for both 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten.</p> <p>Register online at ballarat.vic.gov.au/kindergarten</p>	<p>Kindergarten offers are distributed by email in July the year before they begin at kindergarten.</p> <p>Kindergarten offers are prioritised in the order they are received. However, your child may be eligible for Priority of Access to kindergarten and or Early Start Kindergarten (ESK)</p>	<p>Kindergarten placement offers are emailed out during our July offer period. You must respond to your offer within 10 days. If the place is not right for you, you can say no and go on the waitlist for a place at another kindergarten.</p> <p>If you have registered after the offer period you will be offered a place as they become available.</p>	<p>Your kindergarten will contact you with more information once you have accepted your offer.</p> <p>For enrolment you will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - child's birth certificate - immunisation record

For kindergarten, first priority is given to all DE Priority of Access eligible families. Find the full list here: vic.gov.au/priority-access-criteria

Kindergarten eligibility

At what age do children go to kindergarten?

In Victoria, kindergarten is typically the two years before school entry. Children are eligible to attend a fully funded, three-year-old and four-year-old kindergarten for up to 15 hours a week. Children must be 3-years-old before 30 April in the year they attend kindergarten.

The age children are when they start kindergarten relates to the age they will start primary school. When families are registering for their first year of kindergarten they need to plan and consider the age their child will be when starting school. This relates directly to children born between 21 December and 30 April.

It is also a requirement by the Department of Education that children are enrolled in school by the age of 6 years old, unless a relevant exemption form has been completed. More information can be found at www2.education.vic.gov.au

Date of Birth	Comments	2025	2026	2027	2028
21 December to 30 April 2022	Families have a choice of starting school in 2027 or 2028		Three-year-old Kindergarten/ESK	Four-year-old Kindergarten	Prep
		Three-year-old Kindergarten/ESK	Four-year-old Kindergarten	Prep	Grade 1
1 May 2022 to 20 December 2022			Three-year-old kinder/ESK	Four-year-old kinder	Prep
21 December 2022 to 30 April 2023	Families have a choice of starting school in 2028 or 2029		Three-year-old kinder/ESK	Three-year-old kinder	Four-year-old kinder
				Four-year-old kinder/ESK	Prep
1 May 2023 to 20 Dec 2023				Three-year-old kinder/ESK	Four-year-old kinder
21 December to 30 April 2024	Families have a choice of starting school in 2029 or 2030			Three-year-old kinder/ESK	Three-year-old kinder/ESK
					Four-year-old kinder/ESK
1 May 2024 to 20 December 2024					Three-year-old kinder/ESK

Early Start Kindergarten

Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) provides eligible three-year-old children access to up to 15 hours of free or low-cost kindergarten per week, including in areas with funded three-year-old kindergarten. The grant is available in both long day care and sessional services where the kindergarten program is delivered by a qualified teacher. Some services will be able to offer eligible children a place in a program for four-year-olds or a mixed age group.

In 2026, between 16 and 25 hours of Pre-Prep will be available statewide for Victorian children who are eligible for Early Start Kindergarten.

A child is eligible for ESK if they are aged 3-years-old by 30 April in the year they will be attending a kindergarten program, and:

- from a refugee or asylum seeker background, or
- identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, or
- the family has had contact with child protection.

For more information, visit vic.gov.au/early-start-kindergarten

Three and four-year-old kindergarten is fully funded by the State Government. This funding is paid directly to the kindergarten.

Kindergarten fees are set by the long day care providers with varied costs across services. For example, some long day care programs offer sessional kindergarten and others charge long day care fees. For specific costs, contact the provider directly.

Sessional kindergarten program	Long day care kindergarten program
Free kindergarten for up to 15 hours a week during school term	Free kindergarten for up to 15 hours a week during school term
Sessions can be over two 7.5hr days or three 5hr days. <i>*Kindergartens will advise families what sessions are available on enrolment</i>	Additional fees based on individual service daily fees. CCS rates apply for days of care required
Bring your own lunchbox	Can attend during service hours of operation
Closed during school holidays	Open during school holidays (kindergarten funding not available during this time)
Offer both 3-and 4-year-old programs	Meals provided
	Offer both 3- and 4-year-old programs

No Jab, No Play Legislation

Under the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation, before a child can commence kindergarten it is the responsibility of that kindergarten/early childhood service to obtain evidence, in the form of an immunisation statement, that the child:

- is fully vaccinated for their age,
- is on a recognised catch-up schedule if the child has fallen behind with their vaccinations, or
- has a medical reason not to be vaccinated.

Under the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation, a family experiencing vulnerability and/or disadvantage can enrol a child in a kindergarten program under a grace period of 16 weeks, without having provided proof of up-to-date immunisation. The grace period provisions allow a family to continue to access early childhood education and care services while receiving information and assistance to complete their child's immunisation requirements and to obtain the necessary immunisation documentation.

For more information, vic.gov.au/child-immunisation

Warm referrals & secondary consults

Kindergarten registrations are open throughout the year. As registrations are prioritised in the order they are received, for families not eligible for Priority of Access, we like to encourage families to register as soon as they can. Families can register from the January of the year their child turns 2 years old.

Our friendly staff are available to provide secondary consults for professionals and work alongside you to support all families with registering their child for kindergarten.

Do you have questions or need support?

More information can be found on our website, ballarat.vic.gov.au/kindergarten or scan the QR code



Alternatively you can contact Family and Children's Services on **5320 5720** or email kindergarten@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Translation services are available