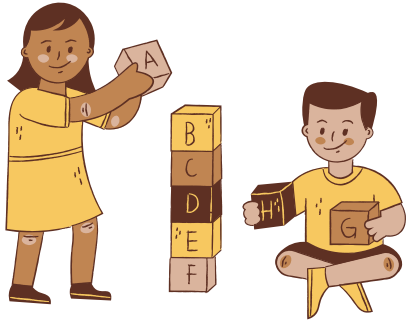


Best Start Best Life

FREE 3 AND 4-YEAR-OLD
KINDER IN 2024



Key Information

Free kinder supports every Victorian child to get the best start in life no matter where they live. It is strongly encouraged that all children attend kinder programs for two years before school as a crucial part of their educational journey.


Free Kinder supports families to access a funded kindergarten program by:

- providing a free 15-hour program to four year-old children enrolled at a sessional service
- providing a free 5-to-15-hour program to three-year-old children enrolled at a sessional service (subject to the length of funded program offered)
- offsetting the funded kindergarten program component of parent fees for three and four-year-old children enrolled at a long day care service




Wheelers Hill Child Care Centre

Now open for
registration!

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To dream big,
our kids need the
best start in life.

Free Kinder 2024 What does this mean?

The Best Start, Best Life reform will help all Victorian children dream even bigger through increased access to quality early childhood education and care. A critical part of the reform is Free Kinder, which will support access to two years of high-quality kindergarten programs for all Victorian children by making this free.

All early childhood education and care providers that deliver a funded kindergarten program in Victoria are eligible to receive Free Kinder funding from 2023, subject to meeting specified terms and conditions. Participating kindergarten programs will receive funding directly from the Victorian Government, so families are not out of pocket (and don't have to claim the savings back). If your child attends a kindergarten program within a long day care setting, free kinder a \$2,050 Free Kinder subsidy will offset the kindergarten program component of your out-of-pocket fees.

Child Eligibility

Families with children born between January and April can choose which year to start Three-Year-Old kindergarten. These children can start in the same year they turn three, or in the year they turn four years of age.

When your child starts at kindergarten directly relates to the age they will start at primary school. Speak to your local services about the best time for your child to start at Three-Year-Old Kindergarten.

Families can only access a funded kindergarten program at one service at a time in line with normal kindergarten funding guidelines.

This includes requiring that a parent / carer for all enrolled children sign a form (provided by the centre) to confirm that this is their funded kindergarten program.

The benefits of attending kindergarten

Research shows that play-based learning is a powerful way to support children's development. These benefits last into the school years and beyond.

The evidence also shows that two years are better than one when it comes to early learning.

A quality kindergarten program will have more of an impact for children who start at age three rather than four. The benefits are even greater for children who are in vulnerable circumstances.

What will my child experience at kindergarten?

Children are given the opportunity to use their imagination and practise important skills, such as problem solving, through play-based learning.

Children start to learn literacy, numeracy and language skills at kindergarten. They also learn how to get along with others, share, listen, and focus their attention.

Teachers and educators help children become curious, creative, and confident about learning. Often, they will introduce a play-experience, idea or topic and let children lead their own learning through exploration and experimentation.



Fee Process

Wheelers Hill Child Care Centre will be offering:

Three-Year-Old and Four-Year Old Kindergarten Program

15 hours per week, per child and will receive the full \$2,050

SERVICE TYPE:	AMOUNT
LONG DAY CARE	
5 Hours	\$683.33
7.5 Hours	\$1025.00
10 Hours	\$1366.66
15 Hours	\$2050.00

- WHCCC will apply the kinder payments regularly on a weekly basis to your account. The amount (labelled Victorian Government Free Kinder offset) will appear on parent invoice statements.
- Payments are made during school terms only, when the funded kinder program is running.
- Children attending the service outside of the school terms, or over the 15 hours will be charged at the centres normal fee (this does not affect your CCS. Parents will pay the gap fee.)

SCHOOL TERMS	WEEKS
TERM 1 (Jan 30th - 28th March)	9 weeks
TERM 2 (15th April - 28th June)	11 Weeks
TERM 3 (15th July - 20th Sept)	10 Weeks
TERM 4 (7th Oct - 20th Dec)	11 Weeks

This works out to be \$50 a week (\$100 a fortnight) 41 week for the year x \$50 = \$2050 towards your 15 hours Kinder funding program.

Example

A Kinder Funded child attends the centre 3 days a week. The family weekly gap after CCS is \$100.00 a week.

During school term 1, Jan 30th – 28th March, \$50 weekly will be credited to the account leaving the family \$50.00 gap to pay for that week.

Outside the school term (school holidays) the family will be paying \$100 weekly.

This is just an example. Amounts per family will differ depending on family CCS, and days attending the centre.