

GET READY FOR FREE KINDER IN 2021

The Victorian Government is investing up to \$169.6 million to offer **Free Kinder in 2021**, to give our kids the best start in life.

This means more children will have access to quality early childhood education before they start school. Your service is participating in this program and your family will benefit in 2021.

What does this mean for your family?

Free Kinder will save Victorian families **around \$2,000** per child if they are enrolled in a participating funded kindergarten program in 2021.

This means:

- **Sessional (standalone) kindergarten:** can offer a free 15-hour kindergarten program each week
- **Long day care:** can provide a reduction in fees of around \$2,000 over the year.

If your child attends both a sessional kindergarten and a long day care service, you can only access kindergarten funding and the Free Kinder initiative at one service. You must nominate which service will receive your funded kindergarten program and Free Kinder payment. You cannot receive the benefit twice for the same child.

Is my family eligible?

All families with a child enrolled in a funded participating kindergarten program are eligible for Free Kinder, in either sessional or long day care services.

If you have received this handout from your service, it means you are eligible.





How do I access funding for Free Kinder?

Payments will be made directly to participating kindergarten service providers.

The saving will be passed on to families though reduced fees. You will not receive a lump sum payment or allowance.



Funded Four-Year-Old and Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

Sessional kindergarten: the Free Kinder allowance paid directly to your service is **\$2,122 per child** (or a pro rata amount for funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten that is less than 15 hours per week).

Long day care: the service will receive a payment of **\$2,000 per child** to directly offset the fees you pay. Your child must be in a funded kindergarten place in that service.

Unfunded three-year-old kindergarten

Sessional kindergarten services with an unfunded three-year-old program will be able to access a payment of **\$1,600 per child**, for each enrolment in a program of five or more hours per week. The payment will be paid directly to the kindergarten and mean lower fees for families. If the normal fee for the program is higher than \$1,600 your service may still charge you a 'gap' fee.

How do I enrol my child?

Enrolments are now open.

For more information about how to enrol, speak to your local participating service or visit education.vic.gov.au/freekinder



Education and Training