

Central Kindergarten Registration Handbook 2027



**3YO & 4YO
Free Kinder**



What is Free Kinder?

Free Kinder is available for children enrolled in funded:

- Three-Year-Old Kindergarten programs
- Four-Year-Old Kindergarten programs, including Pre-Prep

It's offered across Victoria at participating standalone (sessional) kinder services and long day care services.

Kindergarten is an early learning program for children in the two years before school entry. It is designed to engage children in quality play based learning experiences and provide them with opportunities to further develop their cognitive, creative, social, emotional and physical skills.

Under Victorian Government funding provisions, kindergarten is free for children attending kindergarten at participating service providers.

Your child can attend kindergarten if:

- They turn 3 years of age (for 3 year old kindergarten) or 4 years of age (for 4 year old kindergarten) on or before 30 April in the year of kindergarten attendance.
- They have received funding for a second year of kindergarten.
- They are turning 6 years of age in their year of kindergarten and have been granted an exemption from the Department of Education & Training school entry age requirements.

To check what year your child can commence kindergarten, and check their eligibility, head to [vic.gov.au/kinder-quick-guide-parents#when-to-start](https://www.vic.gov.au/kinder-quick-guide-parents#when-to-start).

What is Pre-Prep?

Pre-Prep is the new name for what is currently known as Four-Year-Old Kindergarten.

As part of Victoria's statewide transition, program hours will gradually increase from 15 to 30 hours per week, giving children more time for play-based learning in the year before school.

Aside from the increase in hours, Pre-Prep programs remain the same as Four-Year-Old Kindergarten.

From 2026, children in the following priority cohorts will be eligible for 16 to 25 hours of Pre-Prep each week:

- Children who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Children from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds
- Children who have had contact with Child Protection

In 2027, all eligible families in Moorabool will be able to access 16 to 20 hours of Pre-Prep each week. Priority cohort children (as listed above) will continue to be eligible for 16 to 25 hours.

Each kindergarten determines the number of funded hours offered within these ranges. Families are encouraged to speak directly with their chosen service to confirm available hours before enrolling.



Participating Kindergartens

Ballan Community Kindergarten

88 Simpson St, Ballan

03 5368 1228

info@ecka.org.au

www.ecka.org.au

Ballan Early Education

30A Stieglitz Street, Ballan

03 4336 9259

info@ecka.org.au

www.ecka.org.au

Bacchus Marsh Montessori

Uniting Kindergarten

176 Gisborne Rd, Darley

03 5367 7706

bacchusmarsh.els@vt.uniting.org

earlylearning.unitingvictas.org.au

Darley Kindergarten

Darley Early Years Hub

182 Halletts Way, Darley

03 5367 8605

enrolments@ecms.org.au

www.ecms.org.au

Gordon Kindergarten

15 Stanley St, Gordon

03 4309 4020

gordonkinder@badac.net.au

www.badac.net.au

Wallace & District Kindergarten

739 Bungaree-Wallace Rd, Wallace

03 5334 0268

info@ecka.org.au

www.ecka.org.au

West Maddingley Kindergarten

26 McCormacks Road,

Maddingley

03 4317 4723

enrolments@ecms.org.au

www.ecms.org.au

Yaluk Burron Early Learning Centre

(*Long Daycare Service fees apply)

14 Stead Street, Ballan

03 5368 1628

admin@yalukburronel.com.au

www.yalukburronel.net.au

Young Street Preschool

Cnr Young and Bennett St,

Bacchus Marsh

03 5367 2443

enrolments@ecms.org.au

www.ecms.org.au

How to Register for Free Kinder

1. Decide which kindergarten will best meet your needs. Contact the kindergarten to learn about session times and to arrange a tour of the centre.
2. Register through Council's Central Registration system by completing the online form at moorabool.vic.gov.au/kindergartens
3. Tell us you want to accept the place when receiving your offer.
4. Formally enrol with your kindergarten when they contact you later in the year

Kindergarten Registration Timelines

Round One	March - May 2026	Round one registrations will be accepted from the start of March to the end of May.
Round One Offers	June 2026	Round one offers will be sent via email at the beginning of June.
Round Two	June - July 2026	Round two registrations will be accepted from the start of June to the end of July.
Round Two Offers	August 2026	Round two offers will be sent via email at the beginning of August.

Further Information



Priority of Access

Places will be offered in accordance with the Priority of Access table published in the Moorabool Shire Council Central Kindergarten Registration Policy. This document is available via moorabool.vic.gov.au/kindergartens or by contacting the Early Years team.

Early Start Kindergarten (ESK)

Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) continues to be available for eligible 3-year-old children, providing 15 hours of kindergarten each week. Early Start Kindergarten is available to children who turn three by 30 April in the year they will be attending kindergarten and whose family is:

- Known to Child Protection (including those referred directly from Child Protection to Child FIRST) and/or;
- Are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and/or;
- From a refugee or asylum seeker background.

Children enrolled in Early Start Kindergarten are also eligible for Pre-Prep Priority Cohort (more hours of Four-Year-Old Kindergarten) the following year

Non-Residents Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registrations received from non-residents will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and allocated after Round two offers. Families are also considered non-residents if they move out of the Moorabool Shire prior to the commencement of the kindergarten year.

For more information on non-resident registrations, please refer to the Moorabool Shire Council Central Kindergarten Registration Policy available at moorabool.vic.gov.au/kindergartens

Further Information

Kindergarten Registration Support

If a registration is incomplete, you will be contacted via email or phone. Your registration will not be processed until all required supporting documentation is provided.

If you are unable to access the online form or need assistance completing a kindergarten registration for your child please contact, the Early Years team on 5366 7100 or email earlyyears@moorabool.vic.gov.au.

Additional Support

Multicultural Support Service - Our Multicultural Support Officer is available to assist families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds with the kindergarten registration process.

If you would like support or have any questions, please contact the Early Years team on 5366 7100 or email earlyyears@moorabool.vic.gov.au.

Privacy and Confidentiality

Access to completed registration forms will be restricted to the Early Years' Service and other relevant Council officers. Your registration information will be provided to the kindergarten your child has been allocated to. Personal Information is held by Moorabool Shire Council in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.

Contact Us
Moorabool Shire Council
Community Connections & Wellbeing
5366 7100
EarlyYears@moorabool.vic.gov.au

