

Advice for families: Free Kinder in long day care

Free Kinder is available for all children enrolled in funded kindergarten programs at participating services. This fact sheet is for families with children enrolled in Free Kinder in long day care services.

Helping families

Free Kinder provides a fee offset of up to \$2,000 per eligible child each year:

- For 4-year-old children, this means \$2,000 for children enrolled in a 15-hour kindergarten program (600 hours a year).
- For 3-year-old children, this means from \$666.67 (for a child enrolled in the funded kindergarten program for 5 hours) to \$2,000 (for a child enrolled for 15 hours).

The funded kindergarten program is the time that the qualified Early Childhood Teacher is in the room delivering kindergarten program. Kindergarten programs often run for 5 to 7.5 hours per day in long day care services, which means only part of the day is funded kindergarten and the other part is not.

Eligibility

Free Kinder is for everyone. You do not need to be an Australian citizen to be eligible to access Free Kinder. You also do not need to be eligible for Australian Government Child Care Subsidy (CCS) to receive Free Kinder.

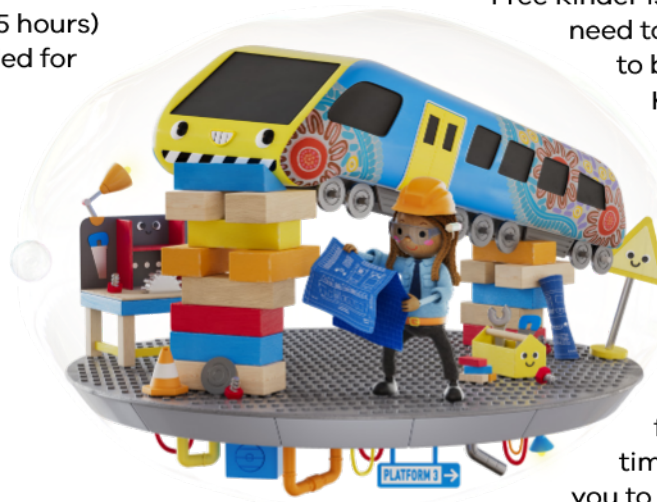
Your child can only access a Victorian Government funded kindergarten place and receive Free Kinder funding in one service at a time. Your service should request you to sign a kindergarten letter to confirm where you are accepting your

child's funded place.

How to access Free Kinder offset

Your long day care service will receive the Victorian Government Free Kinder funding on your behalf.

Your service will pass on the offset as a direct reduction to your out-of-pocket fees after the Commonwealth's Child Care Subsidy (CCS) is applied.



How the fee offset is applied to your out-of-pocket fees

The Free Kinder offset will be applied to your fees regularly across the year (e.g. weekly or fortnightly). You should be able to see the amount clearly stated on your invoice as 'Victorian Government Free Kinder offset'.

Each kindergarten service will typically apply the fee offset in line with its billing schedule throughout the year.

For information on how the offset will be applied to your fees and how this is shown on your invoice, please talk directly to your kindergarten service.

If your child accesses more than 15 hours per week, these additional hours are not covered by the offset.

Example

- A 4-year-old child goes to a long day care with a kindergarten program for 3 days a week.
- The service charges \$360 for the 3 days (including kindergarten hours and additional care hours).
- The family gets Child Care Subsidy (CCS) of \$252.
- The service has chosen to apply the \$2,000 Free Kinder offset weekly over 40 weeks (\$50 per week).
- The family pays \$58 after CCS and Free Kinder offset.

If your child changes kindergarten services during the year

If your child moves to a different long day care service during their kindergarten year, the service that you are moving from will stop receiving the Free Kinder payment and your new long day care service will receive the Free Kinder funding so they can continue to pass the fee offset on to you.

If your child moves to a sessional (standalone) service that is participating in Free Kinder during the kindergarten year, the funded kindergarten program will be free.

More information about Free Kinder in sessional services vic.gov.au/kinder

