

Fee Payment Agreement Funded Kindergarten Program

Important information regarding your child's 3 or 4-year-old kindergarten year.

The Victorian Government provides funding to support children to access a high-quality kindergarten program in the two years before they start school. The funding is a contribution towards meeting the cost of the kindergarten program.

Your child can only be funded for a kindergarten place at one service at any one time. Your child can only attend two years of kindergarten, unless your child is assessed as being eligible for a second funded year of four-year-old kindergarten approved by your child's kindergarten teacher.

This year, your child is enrolled to attend our kindergarten program and we will be claiming funding for your child on your behalf.

If your child will be attending another children's service that offers a funded kindergarten program, you must tell that service we will be claiming funding for your child.

Note: the eligibility of concessions may vary from time-to-time. Up-to-date information can be found at The Kindergarten Funding Guide (Department of Education and Training):
www.education.vic.gov.au

Subsidies

Kindergarten Fee Subsidy

The Kindergarten Fee Subsidy is provided by DET and enables eligible children to attend 5 hours of three-year-old kindergarten and 15 hours of four-year-old kindergarten free of charge. Eligibility conditions may change from time to-time and must be checked in the most recent edition of the Kindergarten Funding Guide

Your child is eligible for the kindergarten fee subsidy:

- if your child identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- if your child is identified on their birth certificate as being a multiple birth child (triplets or more).
- or if your child holds or has a parent or guardian who holds, one of the following:
 - a Commonwealth Health Care Card
 - a Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card
 - a Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or White Card
 - Refugee or Asylum Seeker visa (200-204, 786 or 866)
 - Bridging visas for any of the above Refugee or Asylum Seeker visas
- If your family or child has a humanitarian or refugee visa listed by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection which is not included in the above list, your child may still be eligible for the kindergarten fee subsidy.

- Where a child is identified by a parent, carer or legal guardian as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, no verification is required. In all other instances, supporting documentation should be sighted by the service on acceptance of a place or on commencement in the program, however where there are delays, such as in obtaining health care cards for children in out-of-home care, the delay should not provide a barrier to the child accessing the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy. Families are eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy for the full term in which their concession is valid.

Early Start Kindergarten

Early Start Kindergarten funding gives eligible children up to 15 hours of free or low-cost kindergarten a week for two years before starting school. To be eligible, the child must be three by 30 April in the year they start kindergarten and meet one of the following criteria:

- be from a refugee or asylum seeker background
- identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- your family has had contact with Child Protection/Child First.

Children can also access free or low cost Four-Year-Old Kindergarten through the Early Start Kindergarten Extension Grant. Contact the service for further information.

- The three and four-year-old funded program is partly subsidised by the State Government with the balance of funds coming from fees paid by parents.
- You are entitled to obtain the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy if you meet one of the criteria (Kindergarten Fee Subsidy or Early Start Kindergarten).
- If your eligibility lapses, then full payment of fees is required from the beginning of the following term (this excludes Refugee or Asylum Seeker visa).
- Fees are required to be paid by the due date on the invoice.
- Term fees are non-refundable (A pro-rata fee may be applied as per the Fee Policy).
- If fees are not paid by the due date, the service will implement the late payment of fees procedures, as outlined in the Fees Policy,
- Should your financial circumstances change, and you are unable to pay as agreed, please immediately notify the Uniting Accounts Receivable to discuss alternative payment.
- Please read the Fee policy, which outlines the procedure for payment of fees.

Thank you

