

# Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

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

3-YEAR-OLD KINDER  
**Best Start**  
**Best Life**



**The Victorian Government is investing almost \$5 billion over a decade to introduce universal funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten – and it's now available across the state.**

**This means another year of learning, growing, playing and making friends for Victorian children.**

Taking part in a quality kindergarten program from the age of three boosts children's learning, development, health and wellbeing outcomes.

### **Young children learn about the world around them through play**

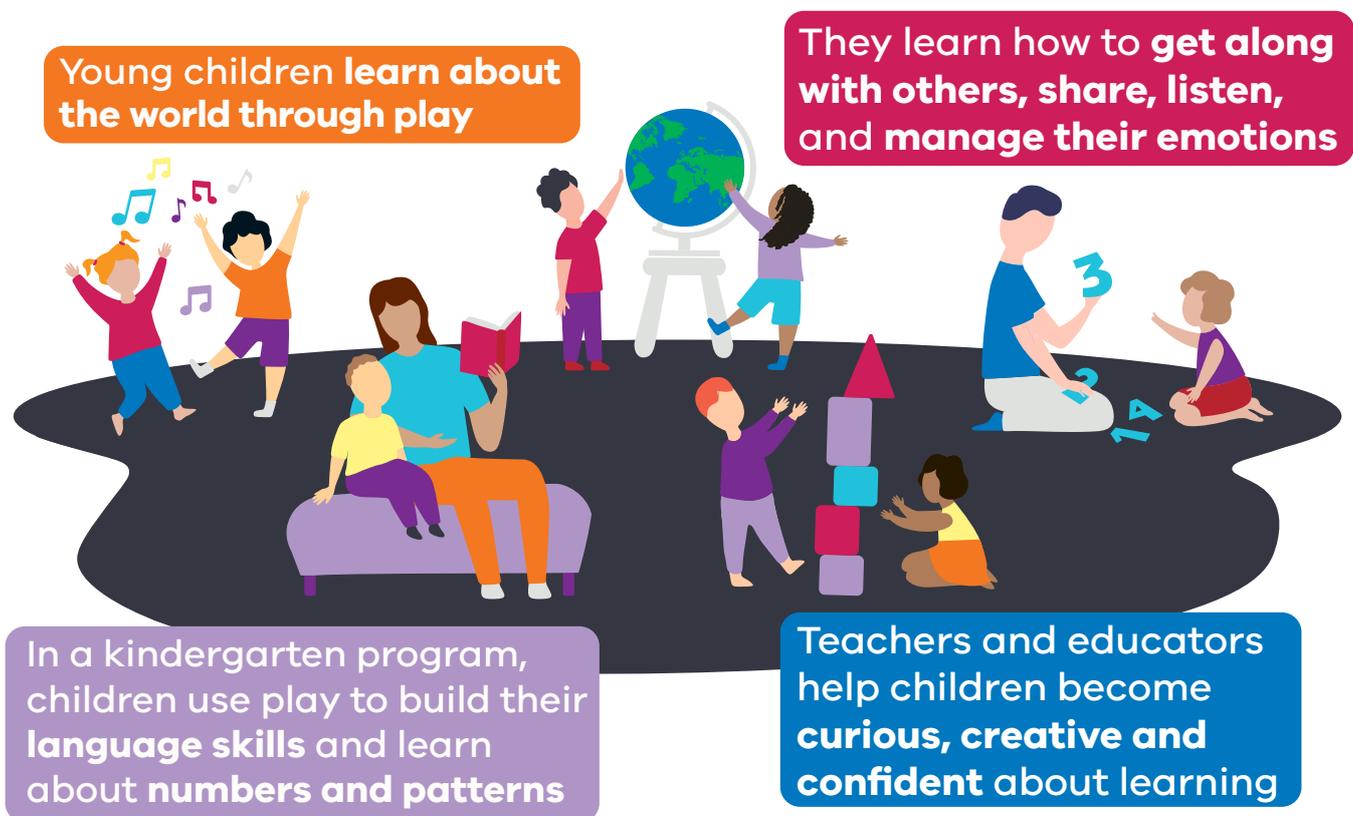
Play-based learning is how young children learn best. It gives children the opportunity to use their imagination, build their language skills and learn about numbers and patterns. They also learn how to get along with others, share, listen and manage their emotions.

### **Children in Victoria have access to two years of funded Kindergarten**

Children across the state will benefit from 2022 onwards with access to at least five hours of a funded kindergarten program each week. The hours will increase to 15 hours a week by 2029.

### **No matter where your child goes to kindergarten, teachers and trained educators will lead the program**

Children can attend a kindergarten program at either a long day care (childcare) service or at a standalone kindergarten.



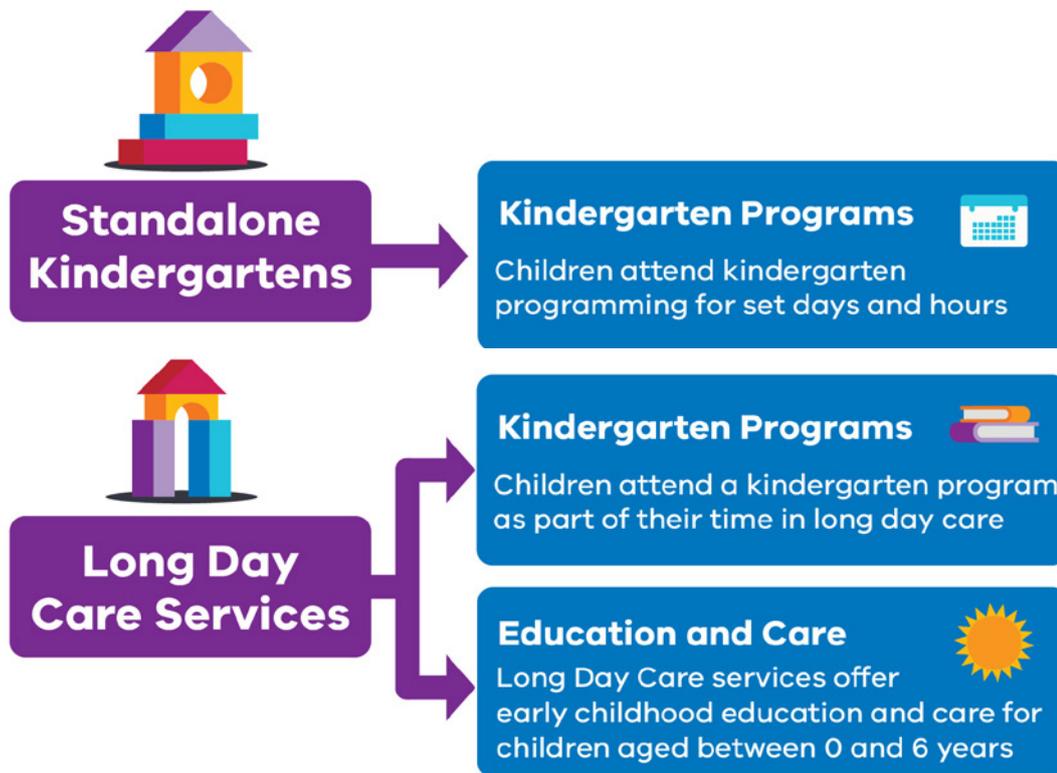
**Young children learn about the world through play**

**They learn how to get along with others, share, listen, and manage their emotions**

**In a kindergarten program, children use play to build their language skills and learn about numbers and patterns**

**Teachers and educators help children become curious, creative and confident about learning**

## Kindergarten programs may be offered in different settings



All funded kindergarten programs must meet government safety and quality guidelines and are developed in line with the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework.

A long day care centre can offer a full day of education and care, including a kindergarten program. The teacher-led kindergarten program is integrated with additional hours of education and care. At a standalone service, each kindergarten group will be timetabled to run on certain days and at specific times. These days and hours are set by the kindergarten service.

**Deciding where to send your child might depend on which services are available in your community, and what works best for your family and child**

### Enrolling a child in universal funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

Talk to your local kindergarten service about their enrolment process and timelines, and visit their centre and staff. To find your local kindergarten and for information on how to choose the right service for your family, visit: [education.vic.gov.au/choose-kinder](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/choose-kinder)

Choosing a quality kindergarten service will ensure a child gets the most out of their time at kindergarten. You can look at service quality ratings by visiting [www.startingblocks.gov.au](https://www.startingblocks.gov.au)

### When to start universal funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

Most services have an enrolment process that opens the year before a child starts a kindergarten program, so you should think about enrolling when your child turns two years old.

Families and carers with children born between January and April can choose which year to start universal funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten. Families might choose for their children to attend the following year to align with school starting age, while other children will be two years old at the start of their Three-Year-Old Kindergarten year.

Children born between 1 January and 30 April are eligible to attend Three-Year-Old Kindergarten in either the year they turn three or the year they turn four.

Children may not be able to attend until they turn three in programs where the service is unable to meet the educator to child ratio for children who are two years of age.

Children born between 1 May and 31 December are only eligible to attend Three-Year-Old Kindergarten in the year they turn four and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten in the year they turn five.

### Kindergarten starting ages

Date child is born	Comments	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
21 Dec 2016 - 30 April 2017	Families have a choice of starting school in 2022 or 2023	3-Year-Old Kindergarten	4-Year-Old Kindergarten	Prep	Grade 1	Grade 2
			3-Year-Old Kindergarten	4-Year-Old Kindergarten	Prep	Grade 1
1 May - 20 Dec 2017*			3-Year-Old Kindergarten	4-Year-Old Kindergarten	Prep	Grade 1
21 Dec 2017 - 30 April 2018	Families have a choice of starting school in 2023 or 2024		3-Year-Old Kindergarten	4-Year-Old Kindergarten	Prep	Grade 1
				3-Year-Old Kindergarten	4-Year-Old Kindergarten	Prep
1 May - 20 Dec 2018*				3-Year-Old Kindergarten	4-Year-Old Kindergarten	Prep

\*The December date is the final Term 4 in government school. Should a family's school of choice have an earlier final day of Term 4, then that date should be used.

### Who can help with further questions about Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

- Your local kindergarten service or provider, including a long day care service
- Your local council or maternal and child health nurse
- Email [3yo.kindergarten@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:3yo.kindergarten@education.vic.gov.au)

Visit [www.vic.gov.au/kinder](http://www.vic.gov.au/kinder)

