

4-YEAR-OLD KINDER (PRE-PREP) FOR PRIORITY GROUPS AT A GLANCE

4-year-old kindergarten (Pre-prep) now offers increased hours while continuing to provide a play-based learning program led by a qualified teacher.

The increased hours (Pre-prep) roll-out commenced 2025 and will launch selected LGA's, new LGA's will be added each year. **From 2026, Four-Year-Old Kinder (Pre-Prep) will be available statewide for children in the following priority groups:**

- Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander children
- Children from a refugee or asylum seeker background
- Children who have had contact with Child Protection
- Children who were supported by Early Start Kindergarten or Access to Early Learning in their Three-Year-Old Kindergarten year

Early access to increased hours of kinder (Pre-Prep) has been prioritised for the above children as they are likely to have the most to gain from additional hours in kindergarten programs. Evidence shows 2 years of early childhood education has a stronger positive effect on children who need extra support, giving them more time to maximise their full potential. By 2028, children who meet the above eligibility, will receive 15 hours of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten and up to 30 hours of 4-Year-Old kindergarten (Pre-Prep).



REGISTRATION AND ENROLMENT



The registration and enrolment process for 4-Year-Old Kinder (Pre-Prep) is the same as for 3-Year-Old kindergarten. Contact your local service or council for more information about how to register and enrol. Parents and carers should identify that the child is eligible for increased hours (Pre-Prep) at registration. The child must be 4 years old by 30 April in the year of attendance to be eligible for 4-Year-Old kinder.

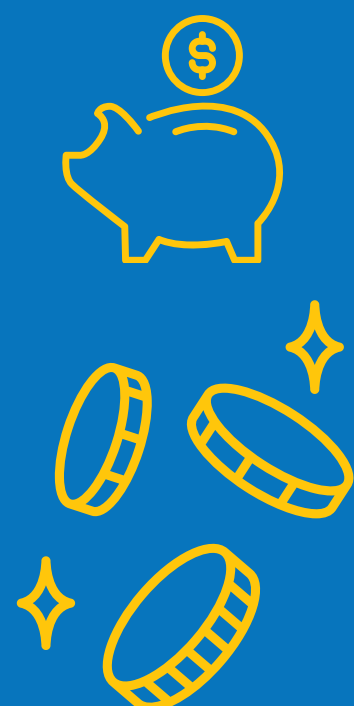
HOURS

4-Year-Old kinder (Pre-Prep) programs for children from priority groups with eligibility for additional hours from 2026, will be between 16- 25 hours per week. Check with your local service about the hours they are offering. From 2028 onwards, programs will be up to 30 hours each week for these children. The additional hours of 4-Year-Old kinder (Pre-Prep) mean even greater access to the many benefits of early childhood education.



4-YEAR-OLD KINDER (PRE-PREP) IS FREE

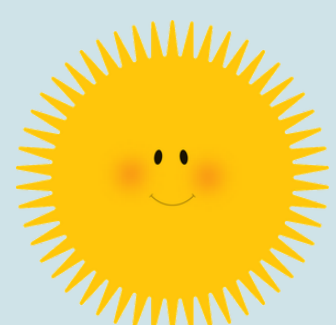
4-Year-Old Kindergarten will be free for children enrolled at participating standalone (sessional) kindergartens across Victoria. Families who enrol their children at a long day care centre will receive a fee offset.



BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN



Increased hours in the year before school gives more time for children of all backgrounds and abilities to deepen their learning and development. More hours of learning through play each week can increase children's early literacy and numeracy, and self-regulation skills.



Find out more: earlyyearshub.com.au

