

Kindergarten Information

Each child can only be funded for a kindergarten place at one service at any one time and only for one year in a Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program and one year in a Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program (unless your child is assessed as being eligible for a second year of Four-Year-Old Kindergarten by your child's kindergarten teacher). This means that only once service can claim kindergarten funding for your child and pass on the Free Kinder savings. If you accept a funded kindergarten place at more than one service and both services receive funding, you may be required to repay the funding and may lose your child's place in one program.

The Victorian Government provides Free Kinder funding to kindergarten and long day care services to deliver high-quality kindergarten programs in the two years before school. This helps to ensure all Victorian children get the best start in life. This saves you and your family approx. up to \$2,050 per year. To pass on this saving, your service will provide you with regular deductions off your fees throughout the year.

All children are eligible to access a funded kindergarten program in the two years before school. Families of children with birth dates between 1st January and 30th April have a choice about whether their child will commence school in the year they turn five (5) or the following year turning six (6). Some children may benefit from starting school at a younger age, whilst other children benefit from starting later. Families need to make an informed choice about which year they would like their child to commence school.

Families who have questions about the best time for their child to commence kindergarten, and therefore school, are encouraged to discuss this decision with an early childhood educator, Maternal Child Health nurse, and/or any other professionals involved in supporting the child prior to commencement in the service. A discussion with an early childhood teacher can help reassure concerned families by discussing how a child's individual learning and development needs can be met within the program.

If you have any questions in regards to your child accessing a funded kindergarten program please contact the bestchance Central Enrolment team on 9132 6060 to discuss further.