

Where can I find more information about Early Start Kindergarten?

- Visit education.vic.gov.au and search for Early Start Kindergarten, or
- phone your regional Department of Education and Training office.

Regional office contacts

Regional Office	Location
North-eastern Victoria 1300 333 231	Benalla
	Wodonga
	Wangaratta
	Seymour
	Shepparton Glen Waverley
North-western Victoria 1300 338 691	Bendigo
	Mildura
	Swan Hill
	Coburg
	Greensborough
South-eastern Victoria 1300 338 738	Moe
	Leongatha
	Warragul
	Sale
	Cheltenham Frankston Dandenong
South-western Victoria 1300 333 232	Ararat
	Ballarat
	Geelong
	Horsham
	Warrnambool Footscray Keilor

To get help in your language:

- call the National Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450
- ask the interpreter to call the number for your region (see above)
- the interpreter will stay on the phone call and interpret.



Early Start Kindergarten for refugees and asylum seekers



Why is kindergarten important?

Kindergarten helps prepare children for success at school and in life. At kindergarten, children use play to learn about language, numbers and patterns. They also learn how to get along with others, share, listen and manage their emotions. Teachers help children become curious, creative, and confident about learning. Research shows that two years of kindergarten are better than one.

What is Early Start Kindergarten?

Early Start Kindergarten gives three-year-old children from a refugee or asylum seeker background 15 hours per week of free or low-cost kindergarten.

Applications for Early Start Kindergarten are made by the kindergarten. The Early Start Kindergarten grant is paid directly to the kindergarten.

Is my child eligible?

Your child is eligible if you or your child:

- have a refugee or humanitarian visa, or
- are applying for a refugee or humanitarian visa, or
- have a current or expired ImmiCard.

If none of these apply but you or your child have been a refugee or asylum seeker, or had similar experiences, your child may still be eligible.

Contact your local Department of Education and Training office to ask about an exemption. You can also ask any professional who supports you to contact the Department for you.



How do I enrol my child?

Early Start Kindergarten is available in all kindergarten programs with a qualified teacher. You can enrol your child by contacting a kindergarten near you or your council.

Tell the kindergarten if you need an interpreter. They can use free telephone interpreting services. If you need help to enrol, ask the Department of Education and Training, or any professional who supports you, such as a:

- support worker
- bicultural worker
- maternal and child health nurse
- supported playgroup facilitator.

Should my child go to four-year-old kindergarten?

Yes. After Early Start Kindergarten, your child is eligible for free or low cost four-year-old kindergarten. This will help them to keep building on their strengths.

