



**Golden Square
Kindergarten**

Kindergarten Long Day Enrolment Application Information

And 2019, 2020, 2021

Introduction

The Golden Square Kindergarten's long day program supports the access and participation of all children in a kindergarten program in the year prior to school entry.

Kindergarten aims to advance each child's learning and to optimise the development of key skills.

Kindergarten programs are designed to:

- Engage each child as an effective learner
- Promote communication, learning and thinking
- Build positive relationships
- Enhance identity

Participation in a kindergarten program gives parents and families the opportunity to be part of a community focused on children's wellbeing.

The kindergarten program also provides a place for parents to get to know other families and to share their experiences and information with early childhood professionals.

Application

Applications close for inclusion in first round offers at the end of the first term in the year prior to attending kindergarten.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten (also called Preschool) is a program for young children delivered by a qualified early childhood educator, usually in the year before school.

Please note that children cannot attend more than one funded kindergarten program. If children require a second year of funded kindergarten they need to meet the criteria set by Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD).

Is my child ELIGIBLE for kindergarten this year?

As per DEECD funding criteria, the following children are eligible to attend kindergarten.

- Children who turn 4 years old on or before the 30 April in the year they will be attending kindergarten.
- Children who have received funding for a second year of 4 year old kindergarten.
- Children who were eligible to attend the kindergarten program in the previous year, but deferred or withdrew from the Kindergarten.
- Children who are turning 6 years of age in their year of kindergarten who have been granted an exemption from school entry age requirements by their regional DEECD office.
- Please note children do not need to be toilet trained to attend kindergarten.

For more information visit the DEECD website www.education.vic.gov.au

Enrolling a child in a licensed children's service

The person(s) who has lawful authority for a child (parent(s), legal guardian(s) or guardian(s) can enrol a child at a children's service, complete the enrolment form and sign the relevant authorisations pursuant to regulations 31(d), 31(f) and 31(g).

If there are any court orders in place relating to the powers, duties, responsibilities or authorities of any person(s) in relation to the child or access to the child, the proprietor of the service (service owner, primary nominee or any person who manages and controls the service) must ensure the details of the court order are recorded in the child's enrolment record pursuant to regulation 31(e) for licensed children's services.

The proprietor should be familiar with any court orders and abide by them as they relate to the provision of care and education of the child at the service. They should also ensure all staff members are aware of any conditions specified in the court order.

Application for Short day program

Application forms for our 15hr programs on Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat am and Mon, Thurs, Fri pm are available from the Kindergarten or the Loddon Mallee Preschool Association (LMPA). You can download them from their website <http://www.lmpa.org.au/> or fill them in online.

No Jab No Play

Funded Kindergarten Programs operate under the National Quality Framework. These services must meet the requirements of the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 (National Law) and the Educational and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (National Regulations).

No Jab No Play – legislation is effective from 1 January 2016

Under the new legislation, before your child can be enrolled for Kindergarten, you will need to provide proof that your child is:

Fully immunised for their age **OR** On a vaccine catch-up program **OR** Unable to be fully immunised for medical reasons.

'Conscientious Objection' is not an exemption under the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation.

For more information, view the immunisation schedule for vaccines available under the National Immunisation Program and when they should be received.

Scientific evidence supporting vaccination is overwhelming, and the benefits far outweigh the very small risks. All vaccines currently available in Australia must pass stringent safety testing before being approved for use by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), Australia's regulatory authority for therapeutic goods. Safety testing is required by law and is usually done over many years during the vaccine's development. Once vaccines are in use, their safety is continually monitored by the TGA and other organisations.

This legislation is in effect so parents/carers have to provide the kindergarten with an immunisation status certificate. This is a statement showing the vaccines a child has received.

The most common type of immunisation status certificate is an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) They can be obtained from Medicare.

Some children may be exempt from the requirement to be fully vaccinated on medical grounds.

Parents/carers who think their child may require a medical exemption should contact their GP.

If a child has a medical reason for not being vaccinated, a GP needs to complete and sign a Medical Immunisation Exemption Medical Contraindication Form and send it to the ACIR

Kindergarten

Fees

Victorian Government funding contributes to the cost of a service providing 15 hours per week.

Our Long day kindergarten operates from 7:30am till 5:45pm. The 15hrs of funded kindergarten is incorporated in these hours.

Kindergarten Fee Subsidy

The Victorian Government kindergarten fee subsidy provides eligible families with access to 15 hours a week of kindergarten per week at no cost.

Your child is eligible for the subsidy if you or your child has:

- A Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card or Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or White Card
- An Asylum Seeker Bridging Visa A–F
- A Temporary Protection/Humanitarian Visa 447, 451, 785, or 786
- A Refugee and Special Humanitarian Visa 200–217

A Resolution of Status (RoS) Visa, Class CD, Subclass 851 Or your child is an:

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or
- * Triplets or quadruplets attending kindergarten in the same year.

Enrolment Fee

An enrolment fee of \$20 is payable to the Kindergarten account at the Bendigo Bank. Families with valid concession cards, Entry Visa's or VA Gold Cards do not need to pay the enrolment fee providing they have a copy of their current documentation attached.

Early Start Kindergarten (ESK)

Early Start Kindergarten provides eligible three year old children with access to kindergarten for up to 15 hours per week for free. It is available for three year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children known to Child Protection (including children referred from Child Protection to Child FIRST).

Children must be aged at least three years by 30 April in the year they attend.

A parent/carer, Child Protection, Family Services/ Child FIRST practitioner or Koori Engagement Support Officer need only advise about a child's eligibility for Early Start Kindergarten. No supporting written documentation is required.

If your child is eligible for Early Start Kindergarten talk directly with the Central Enrolment Officer. Ask if they have a kindergarten place available for a three year old child. The service will then provide your child with a kindergarten program of up to 15 hours per week free of charge. For more information visit www.education.vic.gov.au

Assistance for Children with Additional Needs

The Victorian Government is committed to delivering an inclusive early childhood and school system that ensures that all families and their children have access to quality services and support to meet their needs – no matter what your family's circumstances or background.

This includes families whose children have diagnosed disabilities and developmental delays, and refugee and asylum-seeker families.

The following programs respect your family's individuality and help develop connections with the community that will encourage your child's learning, development and wellbeing in the early years.

Kindergarten Inclusion Support Packages (KIS)

Kindergarten Inclusion Support Packages provide support that enables children with high support needs and diagnosed disabilities to take part in funded kindergarten programs. The services aim to develop a sense of belonging and inclusion for all families and to respond to children and families' individual needs.

They provide specialist training for kindergarten educators to enable a child with a diagnosed disability to take part in a kindergarten program. The service also provides additional resources and equipment, or an additional staff member within the service, to further support all children, as needed. An Information and Application Kit is available for families and kindergarten programs seeking support. To access the kit visit www.education.vic.gov.au/

Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS)

The Early Years are critical for the long-term health and development of all children, including children with disabilities and developmental delays.

Support and services for children and their families are provided by the Department of Education and Training through its Regional Specialist Children's Services teams and by funded community service organisations.

If you have a child with a disability or developmental delay whose needs cannot be fully met by mainstream services, the Early Childhood Intervention Service is available to support your child from birth to the start of school.

The service providers will work with you to meet your child's individual needs, and support you in taking the lead in making decisions for your child.

Their aim is to give you the knowledge, skills and support to meet your child's needs, to allow you to have a fulfilling and enjoyable family life and for your child to be part of the community.

As well as giving you advice and information, the services cover special education, therapy, counselling, family services coordination, transition-to-kindergarten programs and school, and support in early childhood services (such as playgroup, child care and kindergarten programs).

For more information, visit www.education.vic.gov.au/ or call your Department of Education and Training regional office and ask for Specialist Children's Services.

Preschool Field Officer Program (PSFO)

The Preschool Field Officer Program supports the access and participation of children with developmental concerns and additional needs in kindergarten programs, who are usually not receiving support from Early Childhood Intervention Services or Kindergarten Inclusion Support Service Packages.

The program is run by Preschool Field Officers, who are highly qualified Early Childhood Professionals specialising in early childhood education and development. They support those services offering funded kindergarten programs by providing consultation, resources and advice to educators and families.

Any family with a child attending a government-funded kindergarten program with additional needs or a teacher working in a government-funded kindergarten program can access this service. A referral can be made by a parent or teacher. Referral forms can be obtained from your local early childhood service.

Early Childhood Education and Care Services

The Department of Education and Training is responsible for regulating Education and Care Services and Children's Services. All education and care services and children's services in Victoria are required to ensure that children are educated and cared for in an environment that is safe, meets their learning and development needs, and supports their health and wellbeing.

Services are required to employ educators with appropriate qualifications and provide educational programs based on children's abilities, interests and experiences. Most services are required to construct learning environments based on an approved learning framework such as the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework. For more information visit

National Quality Framework

From 1 January 2012, the National Quality Framework applies to kindergartens, long day care, family day care and outside school hours care services across Australia. These services are now required to operate under the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* and meet the new National Quality Standard.

Education and care services will be assessed and rated, with a focus on seven key quality areas of the National Quality Standard. These ratings will help parents make more informed choices about the education and care of their child.

For more information visit

<http://education.gov.au/national-quality-framework-early-childhood-education-and-care>

Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework

The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework describes the Principles, Practices and Outcomes essential to advance young children's learning from birth to eight years of age.

The Framework supports and guides Early Childhood Professionals to work together, with children and with families to achieve the best outcomes for children. The Framework identifies five learning outcomes for children from birth to eight years:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators.

Each learning outcome is targeted to develop the knowledge and skills children need to be confident and happy throughout their life.

Key Points to Consider When Enrolling

- No Application will be processed without a current Immunisation History Statement
- Attach a photocopy of your Current Concession Card
- Children with developmental delays or disabilities can be supported in transition if information about their individual needs is provided.
- Please return the enrolment Application form and other documents to Golden Square kindergarten.
- Failure to provide up to date contact information will result in loss of position or inability to enrol