

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

Kindergarten (sometimes called preschool) is for 3 and 4 year old children.

Kindergartens in the City of Monash offer a variety of sessional programs that vary in the length and the number of days your child may attend. The session times outlined in this guide may change from year to year based on a kindergarten's number of enrolments and parents' needs.

Availability of places in individual kindergartens is determined by the number of sessions, policies and places offered. This is decided each year by a kindergarten's Committee of Management, which are made up of parents and other volunteers who may be responsible for managing kindergartens. In third term every year, kindergartens make an initial series of offers for the following year. Places will be offered in accordance with each kindergarten's enrolment policies. To obtain a kindergarten's enrolment policy, please contact that kindergarten.

Operating costs for 4 year old kindergarten sessions are partially subsidised by the State Government with the remainder covered by parents' fees. The fees are set by the Committee of Management and are based on the hours of attendance and the number of children attending the service. Three year old kindergarten sessions are not funded by State Government for most students, although exceptions may apply for Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders and children known to child protection. The kindergartens depend almost entirely on fees to operate 3 year old sessions. More information regarding fees is available from the kindergartens and the Monash Council website at www.monash.vic.gov.au where available.

Victorian State Government Policy states that a child is entitled to funding for **ONE** year of a 4 year old kindergarten experience **ONLY**. When applying for kindergarten, parents need to carefully consider the age of their child and whether he/she will be ready for the demands of kindergarten. Your local kindergarten teacher is available to discuss these matters.

Central Registration for 3 And 4 Year Old Preschool

Monash Council maintains a Central Enrolment Register. The register is also supported by the Monash Preschool Association.

Council requires that kindergartens operating from Council buildings give preference to children of Monash residents and ratepayers when allocating places.

It is recommended that parents enrol their child as soon as possible after their child reaches 18 months. Children must turn either 3 or 4 years old on or before 30 April the year before they attend kindergarten. Children who turn 3 years old between February and the 30 April cannot start 3 year old kindergarten until their third birthday.

Application for Kindergarten Enrolment forms are available from Council Offices, Maternal and Child Health Centres and kindergartens. They can be downloaded from:
www.monash.vic.gov.au/forms/family.htm

There is no guarantee that children placed on the Central Enrolment Register will receive a place in your preferred kindergarten or in any kindergarten within the municipality. If your child does not obtain a place at your preferred kindergarten, Council's Preschool Support Officer may be able to assist with other options.

It is recommended that parents visit a few kindergartens to obtain information such as **session times, fees** and **individual enrolment policies** before nominating their preferred kindergartens on the application form. **Please be aware that the kindergartens' enrolment policies may influence your child's enrolment.**

Should a parent wish to vary any of the information on their original application (e.g. kindergarten preferences, year of attendance, change of address, etc). an *Alteration of Kindergarten Enrolment Application* form must be submitted. These forms are available from Council Offices, the kindergartens and www.monash.vic.gov.au

Kindergarten applications or alterations must be received by 30 June prior to the year of anticipated attendance to be considered in the initial series of offers. Applications received after that date will be considered after all applications received before 30 June are processed.

If a parent requests a change of preference before 30 June in the year prior to when their child is expected to attend, the **ORIGINAL** date received will remain the same. A change of preference received after the 30 June will attract **the new date** as the waiting list for allocations has closed. If a parent requests a change of preference without a change of address, a further fee is payable.

Should forms be received prior to a child being 18 months of age or without payment, they will be returned to parents to be resubmitted and will attract the later date of registration.

If you have not received a letter or email acknowledging receipt of your application/alteration within 1-3 weeks after lodgement please contact the Preschool Support Officer 9518 3530.

Allocation of Places

Places of offer are sent by kindergartens in July/August and offers will continually be made until kindergartens are full and/or all children on the list have been offered a place. Should your child not receive an offer for a place in your preferred kindergarten, the Preschool Support Officer will assist in finding a place for your child in your second choice or other alternatives where available. Please note your child's name is only on the list of your preferred first choice kindergarten.

If you would like more information on the enrolment procedure, please contact the Preschool Support Officer at Monash Council, 9518 3530, or by e-mail: kinderenrolments@monash.vic.gov.au

Completed applications including an administration fee can be submitted:

IN PERSON at the cashier at Council Offices:

❖ 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley or

❖ 3 Atherton Road, Oakleigh.

BY MAIL: City of Monash, PO Box 1, Glen Waverley 3150.

BY EMAIL: kinderenrolments@monash.vic.gov.au

BY FAX: 9518 3444

The form includes space for people to provide their credit card details.

Cheques are to be made payable to the City of Monash.

Other Kindergarten Programs

Parents should also be aware that kindergarten programs are available at many child care or alternative centres in Monash. As with stand alone kindergartens, 4 year old kindergarten places at these centres are funded by the State Government and are provided by a qualified early childhood teacher. When making decisions about kindergartens, parents may wish to consider these options as locations and hours may better suit your needs.

Enquires and applications should be made directly to the centre. Further details can be found in the community directory on the www.monsh.vic.gov.au

Children with Additional Needs

A parent who considers that their child has additional needs at the time of application for enrolment must apply for recognition of this status through the kindergarten. This is so an application for further funding or assistance to be sought should it be needed. Making contact with your preschool in term 3, the year before entry, will enable an early application to be made.

Cluster Management

Some kinders are managed by organisations known as cluster managers. These organisations are responsible for managing the licence and staff in their kindergartens. Committees of management are then responsible for the day to day operation of the service.

Currently there are three cluster managers operating in the City of Monash. These are bestchance Child & Family care, Early Childhood Management services (ECMS) and UnitingCare Vic/Tas

The kindergarten curriculum follows the Early Years Learning and Development Framework:

Identity-children have a strong sense of identity.

Community-children are connected to and contribute with their world.

Wellbeing-children have a strong sense of wellbeing.

Communication-children are effective communicators.

Learning-children are confident and involved learners.

Learning through Play

Kindergarten is a place where an educational program will allow children to:

- ❖ Choose a variety of open ended experiences
- ❖ Use safe and challenging equipment and resources
- ❖ Participate in individual learning experiences planned by a highly qualified, university trained teacher who is supported by a caring assistant
- ❖ Receive support and encouragement from staff members

Your child will learn:

- ❖ Social skills – respect for others, co-operation, sharing, taking turns
 - ❖ Language skills – express ideas clearly, talk with and listen to others
 - ❖ Physical skills – co-ordination, balance, fine and gross motor skills
 - ❖ Confidence – being part of a group, self esteem, resilience
 - ❖ Self - help skills – looking after possessions, independence
 - ❖ Cognitive skills – problem solving, introduction to literacy and numeracy
- These skills are learnt through active play.

Kindergarten programs are rich in child-centered, directed and open-ended opportunities for autonomous and active learning.

Talk to your local kindergarten teacher for more information

Before I can learn to *READ* I need to know:

- What a book is?
- That it contains words and pictures.
- That these words are what is read.
- That a book has a beginning and an end – back and front.
- I need to learn to love and care for books in order to want to read.
- I may begin to understand that reading (and writing) is done from left to right, top to bottom and that each printed word represents one spoken word.
- I may not learn all of these pre-reading skills before I am 5 but I will learn some of them.
- *BOOKS ARE ENJOYABLE!* I can find out and appreciate many things and my language and listening skills grow with lots of stories, poems, singing, puppets, games and music.

Before I can learn to *WRITE* I need to know:

- What happens when I put pencils or paint to paper.
- Be able to hold a pencil or brush comfortably.
- Have time to scribble, draw circles and make shapes before I am able to draw things. This may take me a while.
- Enjoy drawing and painting in order to learn to write.
- Learn about letters and words, what they look like, how they are formed and in what order they go in, ie. my name.
- I need you to support and encourage me even if you cannot see what I have created. I am experimenting and learning and not concentrating and what is right or wrong.
- *BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY* – I'll need lots of practice, plenty of paper, paints and pencils.

Before I can learn *MATHEMATICS* I need to know:

- The names of numbers.
- Be able to say them in the right order.
- Match each number with the correct amount of things.
- Know the names of shapes and colours and to be able to match them.
- Put things that are alike into sets/groups.
- Learn that things can be put into order (smallest to biggest).
- Learn about size and weight.
- Learn about space (in, on, behind, through).
- It is important to remember that I learn pre maths in all areas of the kinder