

Early Start Kindergarten for children who have had contact with Child Protection in Victoria



All children who have had contact with Child Protection and are aged three years by April 30 in the year they will be attending are eligible for Early Start Kindergarten (ESK).

ESK provides eligible children with 15 hours of free kindergarten delivered by a qualified Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registered teacher.

A kindergarten only requires verbal advice that a child has had contact with Child Protection for the child to be eligible for ESK, and this advice can be provided by a child protection practitioner, parent or carer.

Eligible children should be enrolled in ESK, even where Free Kindergarten is available. This ensures they have priority of access to the service and can be supported to access the additional hours of kindergarten offered through Pre-Prep from 2026.

More information can be found at:

Early Start Kindergarten | [vic.gov.au](https://www.vic.gov.au)

<https://www.vic.gov.au/early-start-kindergarten>