

What is Kindergarten?

Kindergarten (also called preschool) is a program for young children delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher.

Why should my child go to kindergarten?

Kindergarten is an important step for young children and is strongly recommended for all children. Research shows that kindergarten improves children's **health and wellbeing, helps them to develop strong social skills and encourages a love of learning.**

Children who go to a kindergarten program are more independent and confident and are more likely to make a smooth transition to primary school (Prep).

All children can attend kindergarten. It is for all children. If your child has a disability or learning difficulty, the educators will talk with you about how the program and environment can support your child, if you need support to enroll your child in a kindergarten program.

What happens at a kindergarten?

A high-quality kindergarten program will offer your child a range of learning experiences and activities that are both stimulating and fun. Your child's learning and curiosity will be encouraged through experiences and activities, such as exploring the natural world, being exposed to new ideas and solving problems. Your child will be able to:

- learn to work with others and make friends through group activities and cooperative play
- express their creativity, for example, through dance, movement and art
- build their communication skills by listening to and having conversations with the educators and other children
- develop the skills that they need for reading, writing and mathematics.

Tips for Starting Kindergarten

There are lots of things you can do to prepare your child for kindergarten.

- Be positive – talk to your child about what they will do at kindergarten.
- Borrow library books about kindergarten to read together.
- Encourage your child to dress themselves, so they can manage tasks like taking their jumper on and off, opening lunchboxes and skills like asking for help.
- It is ideal if your child is toilet trained or in the process of being trained, however children cannot be excluded from attending kindergarten because they are not toilet trained. Please speak to the educators at the centre if you have concerns.
- Visit the kindergarten or travel past it on your route home.
- Label all belongings that your child will take to kinder.
- Read over the family information the kindergarten provided to ensure everything is prepared.
- Talk to your child and establish a goodbye routine together.
- Establish a routine for kindergarten mornings – this could include a chart with pictures outlining the different steps for getting ready.
- Organise holiday play dates with friends or children who will be going to the kindergarten.
- Create a routine around sleep – at this age, children need 10 to 12 hours of sleep each night. Practice sticking to bedtime and wake up schedules in the weeks leading up to the start of kinder

First ever Child and Family hub to be constructed in Mulgrave

Published on 11 August 2020

A new purpose-built child and family centre will be constructed in Mulgrave to replace the ageing Wellington Kindergarten and co-located Maternal and Child Health Service.

The new Wellington Child and Family Hub will offer two kindergarten rooms, two maternal and child health consulting rooms, two consulting rooms for specialists and a community playgroup room, all purpose built in a state-of-the-art facility.

The new building will commence construction at the start of 2021 and be finalised by the end of 2021 ready for the new Kindergarten year in 2022.

This is the first facility of its kind in Monash and demonstrates Council's strong commitment to improving the accessibility and quality of early childhood services in Monash.

All children currently enrolled for the 2021 year at Wellington Kindergarten have been offered a place at the Glen Waverley South Pre-School. Educators from Wellington Kindergarten will also move to Glen Waverley South Pre-School during construction. Wellington Preschool Inc will continue to be the management body of the kindergarten for 2021 at the Glen Waverley South Kindergarten venue.



City of Monash opens Wellington, city's first Child and Family Hub

BY FRED LUCAS APRIL 26, 2022

PROVIDER ECONOMICS



The City of Monash has officially opened Wellington, its first Child and Family Hub, which will support the development and wellbeing of Monash's youngest of residents and their families.

In addition to two kindergarten rooms, the hub houses two maternal and child health consulting rooms, two specialist consulting rooms and a community playgroup room, which will allow families to build relationships with nurses, kindergarten educators, playgroup facilitators and other specialists under the one roof.

The Hub was opened by Premier Daniel Andrews and Mayor Stuart James, and features purpose-built indoor and outdoor learning environments, reflecting the Council's strong commitment to improving the accessibility and quality of early childhood services in Monash.

Off the Press



monashbulletin
www.monash.vic.gov.au
April 2022

DOORS OPEN AT WELLINGTON

Monash's first child and family hub

A first of its kind in Monash, the Wellington Child and Family Hub is officially open and buzzing with excitement.

Supporting the development and wellbeing of Monash's youngest of residents and their families, our newest early child and family hub provides many services that support our community.

In addition to its two kindergarten rooms, the hub houses two maternal and child health consulting rooms, two specialist consulting rooms and a community playgroup room. This allows families to build relationships with nurses, kindergarten educators,

playgroup facilitators and other specialists under the one roof.

The purpose-built indoor and outdoor learning environments within the kindergarten boost the delightful and creative ideas of the kindergarten community. We developed this through the design and concept phase of the project as early as 2020. The hub also allows for more kindergarten enrolments, which is great news for our growing community.

The facility also includes commissioned artwork *New Life, New Beginnings 2022* and *Circles of Life/Needle Pieces 2022*.

produced by Patawa woman and artist Heather Kennedy, Clara Trowsbury, Paatmateneer, Ben Lomond and Bunarong. They reflect the new hub as a safe and supportive centre with a focus on welcoming messaging that will provide a valuable contribution to reconciliation for Monash.

Wellington Child and Family Hub provides a community space for families to connect and grow together and access essential services in one location.

Construction started in January 2021 and finished in November 2021 ready for the 2022 kindergarten year.

The \$4.5 million project was jointly funded by Monash Council and the Victorian Government.

More info:
www.monash.vic.gov.au/children-family



All smiles at Wellington Preschool with Teresa, Ella and Davy (left to right)

Information in the April Bulletin is current at the time of going to print on 1 April

Keep up-to-date about changes to our services through:
www.monash.vic.gov.au
 [@cityofmonash](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmonash)
 [@cityofmonash](https://www.instagram.com/cityofmonash)
 [@MonashCouncil](https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofmonash)

What to look for in a Kinder

When you first enter you will be able to tell if the kindergarten's atmosphere is inviting or cold, relaxed or frantic.

It should be a safe and comfortable place and the children should have a choice of fun and challenging activities. You should see the teacher and other educators working confidently with the children and enjoying their company.

Information on display

The kindergarten should have information about their operations, policies and procedures on display. You can also ask them to give you a copy.

These policies should be child- and family-focused. They should also be sensitive to each family's cultural and social background, lifestyle and child-rearing practices.

The available information should include:

- the education and activities program
- the contact details of the responsible regional department office
- the name and telephone number of the person you can contact if you have any complaints or concerns
- their behaviour management policy
- staff qualifications
- their children's service licence.

Questions you can ask

To help decide if a kindergarten is suitable, ask these questions:

- What is the quality rating?
- Are places available for the days and hours I need?
- Does the kindergarten operate throughout the year or only during certain times, like school terms?
- Do they offer a funded kindergarten program?
- Do they offer extended care?
- How do they support children with additional needs?
- What happens if my child is unwell, upset, or unsettled?
- How are food and drink given to the children?
- How do they give medication?

Free Kinder in 2023

Free Three- and Four-Year-Old Kinder will be available across Victoria at participating services in 2023 at both long day care and sessional (standalone) services.

Free Kinder means more Victorian children can have the best start in life, no matter where they live:

- For three-year-olds, this means from 5 and up to 15 hours per week of a kindergarten program
- For four-year-olds, this means 15 hours per week (600 hours a year)

Free Kinder means a saving of up to \$2,500 per child, each year, and also means more than 28,000 Victorians can return to work, including almost 26,600 of which are women.

Participating kindergarten programs will receive funding directly from the Victorian Government, so families are not out of pocket (and don't have to claim the savings back). If your child attends a kindergarten program within a long day care setting, a \$2,000 Free Kinder subsidy will offset the kindergarten program component of your out-of-pocket fees.

Long day care centres will be required to pass on the full amount to parents as a direct reduction in their out-of-pocket fees. This will provide a free program for some families and a significantly reduced cost for other families, depending on service fees, number of days attended, and the amount of Commonwealth subsidy received.

When to start Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten

Families with children born between January and April can choose which year to start Three-Year-Old kindergarten. These children can start in the same year they turn three, or in the year they turn four years of age.

Due to staffing requirements, some services may ask that children start attending kindergarten only after their third birthday. This may mean that some children may not start attending their kindergarten program until part-way into Term 1.

If your child will turn six in late December (between the last day of the school year and 31 December), they can attend Four-Year-Old Kindergarten in that year and attend school the following year.

When your child starts at kindergarten directly relates to the age they will start at primary school. Speak to your local services about the best time for your child to start at Three-Year-Old Kindergarten.

What you need to know

There are a few things you need to know when making this decision:

Kindergarten services are required to have a different ratio of staff to children, this will vary depending on the children's ages

Some services might not have the number of staff needed to accommodate two-year-olds. For these services, your child must have turned three before they can attend

If your child turns three by 30 April and you would like them to start kindergarten that year, you can still enrol your child. Services will hold your child's place until they are old enough to attend.

If you have any questions, contact your local kindergarten service. Services can contact 3yo.kindergarten@education.vic.gov.au for more information.

You can enrol your child by contacting the early childhood service you wish to attend. Find a [kindergarten service or childcare centre](#) with a funded program near you. You can also contact your local council for assistance.

For more information visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/kindergarten> and/or <https://www.startingblocks.gov.au/other-resources>

Wellington Preschool is part of the new Wellington Hub Child and Family Centre, a first of its kind for the City of Monash. The new state-of-the-art facility includes two kindergarten rooms within a beautiful modern and natural setting.

We offer 3 year old and 4 year old programs, both with long and short day options to offer flexibility for parents and families.

Why Wellington Preschool?

At Wellington Preschool we are committed to providing a **high-quality early childhood program with a strong focus on building nurturing and supportive relationships with children, families, educators, and the community**. We believe that children learn best in a safe and caring environment, where all children and families feel a sense of belonging.

Each child is recognised as an individual and supported in a warm and caring environment. We foster each child's uniqueness, through mutual respect and encouragement. **Our program** endeavours to reflect the "whole child," their holistic wellbeing, and their learning by supporting their social emotional wellbeing as they develop their sense of self.

We believe in an inclusive approach in our kindergarten program, ensuring all children are treated equally and respected as individuals. We support the children's self-esteem and respect using positive language and encouragement.

What's Different at Wellington Preschool?

Our qualified and dedicated educators believe that learning during the Early Years is critical for the development of the whole child. **Our child centered, indoor/outdoor play-based program, reflects the interest of the children and encourages each child to be an active learner.**

We recognise that learning occurs in a variety of social contexts and interactions with others. Along with intentional and purposeful education that supports the child's interests, we work with the children using strategies to speculate, explain, **share thinking, problem solving, creativity, music and dance, and most importantly, play which is the fundamental factor in the children's learning.**

Along with creating programs based on the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework and the National Quality Framework, **we provide programs which reflect experiences from our everyday life and the children's abilities and interests, with an emphasis on choice and independence.**

Our purpose built and award winning environment and unique building design plays an important role in contributing to the wellbeing, happiness, creativity and developing independence of our children. The environment acts as the third teacher where children conduct a lot of their learning. We believe it enhances and challenges the

children's experiences and allows the children to take risks, in a supervised environment. We are committed to implementing sustainability into our everyday practices, as this promotes awareness and action towards caring for the world we live in.

Our Educators

Our team of highly experienced **educators are bright, enthusiastic and engaging.**

They treat each child as the unique person they are and work closely with parents/carers to ensure each child is happy and confident to come to preschool and enjoy their time here.

All of our educators are warm, friendly and incredibly nurturing of each and every child in their care.

Staff are always available to discuss your child's progress and work closely with families to help support the development of each child.

Across the team, there is extensive experience assisting children and families with introduction to kinder, school readiness and working with children with additional needs.

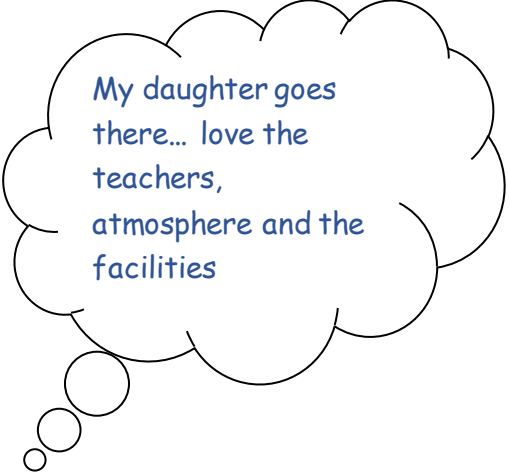
Many of our educators have all been part of Wellington Preschool for many years. It is this consistency of caring, experienced staff that keeps generations of families returning through the years.

Our team look forward to guiding, nurturing and coaching each child and being a part of this special time in their life.

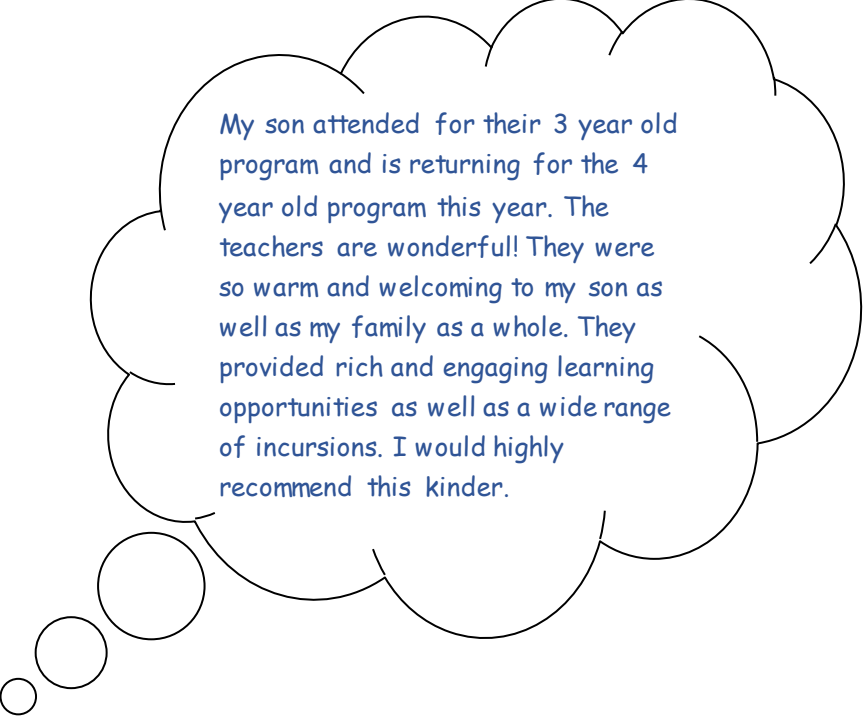
Child Safety

At Wellington Preschool we believe that every child is entitled to be safe and feel safe so they can thrive and develop to their full potential. This fundamental right underpins, and is at the forefront of our care and decision-making. We are committed to the Child Safe Standards and contributing to the greater awareness of child safety in our community as a whole. In ensuring children's safety our philosophy also recognises the child's right to self-expression and making decisions and choices that influence their learning and wellbeing.


What the Other Mums are saying about Wellington Preschool



My daughter goes there... love the teachers, atmosphere and the facilities



My son attended for their 3 year old program and is returning for the 4 year old program this year. The teachers are wonderful! They were so warm and welcoming to my son as well as my family as a whole. They provided rich and engaging learning opportunities as well as a wide range of incursions. I would highly recommend this kinder.



Absolutely lovely place, nice and clean and the staff is so friendly and helpful

2024 Wellington Kindergarten Program (*subject to change)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total Hours
Ladybugs 3 Year Olds	9.00am - 2.00pm (5 hours)	9.00am - 2.00pm (5 hours)		9.00am - 2.00pm (5 hours)		15 hours/week
Grasshoppers 3 Year Olds			8.30am - 4.00pm (7.5 hours)		8.30am - 4.00pm (7.5 hours)	15 hours/week
Bumblebees Group 4 year Olds			9.00am - 2.00pm (5 hours)	9:15am - 2.15pm (5 hours)	9.00am - 2.00pm (5 hours)	15 hours/week
Butterfly Group 4 year olds	8.30am - 4.00pm (7.5 hours)	8.30am - 4.00pm (7.5 hours)				15 hours/week

Term Dates 2024

Term 1: 30th January - 28th March

Term 2: 15th April - 28th June

Term 3: 15th July - 30th Sept

Term 4: 7nd Oct - 20th Dec

Snack and Lunch Times

The kindergarten has a nutrition Policy which is in the Centre Policy Book. The Policy Book is located in the foyer of the kindergarten. Please take the time to read it and be familiar with what it says.



Parents and carers are responsible for providing a healthy snack at kindergarten in a named, easy to manage lunch box. Each child will need a clearly labeled Drink Bottle which will contain fresh water daily and will be readily available to the children at all times during a kinder session. Please do not hesitate to talk to your teacher if your child has special dietary needs. Please provide a healthy lunch each day for your child.

Every session - Snacks each day will include fresh fruit, vegetables and cheese. Each family should bring a fresh piece of fruit, vegetable, pack of rice cracker biscuits (plain flavor please) or small block of cheese.

Healthy SNACK



Healthy LUNCH



We are a **NO NUT Kinder**. No Peanut butter, Nutella, whole nuts or other nut products allowed! No whole EGGS as there are children who are anaphylactic to eggs.





WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO BRING

- A Kindergarten Bag- should be big enough for lunch box, a coat and artwork
- A **named** lunchbox with a healthy lunch
- A **named** bottle of Water
Water only, please no milk or juice
- Change of clothes (**named**)
- A SunSmart Hat (**named**) - please note hats will stay at Kinder year long !

Clothing

Remember **SAFE** and **COMFORTABLE**- running, climbing easy to **MANAGE**- undo easily. Shoes need to be well fitted and suited to running and climbing. **We ask that the children do not wear thongs, crocs and shoes without a back strap as they are very dangerous on the climbing frames. Long flowing skirts and dresses can also be a hazard on climbing frames**

Please Remember:

- Please do not send the children in their best clothes, as children get very dirty at Kinder. We provide smocks for messy activities but accidents do happen.
- All clothes must be comfortable, easy for them to toilet and allow your child to move freely.
- Please provide a spare set of clothes in your child's bag in case of accidents.
- Coats need to be provided during winter months as the children still play outside on colder days, providing it is dry.
- Kindergarten policy states that all children wear an **appropriate hat (i.e. a wide brimmed hat or legionnaire hat)** which is left at kindergarten every session. Please **label all your child's belongings** as they are easily lost and **often** the same as another child's.

Please note we are a sun smart preschool and singlet dresses and singlet tops must have a t-shirt underneath to protect your child from the sun.