

Kindy in Queensland

What is kindy?

Kindergarten, known as kindy, is a part-time educational program for children in the year before school. Attending a kindy program lets your child learn through play, make friends and prepare for the transition to school.

Queensland Government-approved kindy programs are play-based and delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher. Kindy programs can be offered at early childhood education centres; some remote country schools; and by distance education or eKindy for some children who cannot access a centre.

Learning at kindy

At kindy, children are learning through play to:

- use language to communicate ideas and feelings
- make friends, share and play with others
- learn through new experiences
- become more confident and feel strong
- express themselves through art, dance and dramatic play
- build on their knowledge, explore new ideas and help them enjoy a great start to school.

How to enrol

In Queensland, children can attend kindy in the year before school. Each service is different and some may have a waiting list, so it's a good idea to speak to your chosen kindergarten service about the best time to enrol your child.

Your child must be 4 years old by 30 June to participate in kindy.

Child born	Child can attend kindy
1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014	2018
1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015	2019
1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016	2020
1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017	2021
1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018	2022
1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019	2023

What you will need to enrol your child:

- your child's name and address
- your details as their parent, carer or guardian
- details of any court orders or parenting orders or plans
- details of any special requirements (e.g. disability, food allergies or other needs)
- proof of date of birth (e.g. birth certificate)
- health and immunisation status
- details of the people allowed to pick up your child and who to notify in an emergency.

Your service will keep this information confidential and you will have full access to your child's records.



Choosing a kindy program

All children in Queensland are eligible to attend an approved kindergarten in the year before school.

An approved kindergarten program meets government guidelines, and is:

- a play-based learning program delivered by qualified early childhood teachers, in accordance with government guidelines
- typically delivered for 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year, for children in the year before school
- aligned with the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline or other Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority accredited learning program.

To help identify a Queensland Government-approved program, look for the 'kindy tick'.



What kindy costs

Kindergarten fees vary depending on the service. Contact your preferred kindy for details about their fee structure.

Low or no cost kindergarten is provided to eligible families, including foster families, who:

- hold a current Australian Government Health Care Card (HCC) (or have a child who does)
- hold a current Australian Government Pensioner Concession Card (automatic HCC entitlements)
- hold a Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card or White Card
- have formal communication, such as a letter, from the relevant agency stating the intent to issue a HCC
- are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (or have a child who is)
- have three or more children, of the same age, enrolled in the same year.

The subsidy for low or no cost kindergarten is provided directly to your service provider. It may reduce your out-of-pocket expenses. It can only be claimed once, even if you meet multiple criteria.

Families of children participating in a kindergarten program in a long day care setting may also be eligible for the Commonwealth Government Child Care Subsidy.

Information about eligibility for these Commonwealth Government subsidies is available from Centrelink.

Children in foster or kinship care may also access additional subsidies. Contact your kindy and then the Child Safety Service Centre for more information.

More information

Contact the Queensland Government on telephone **13 74 68** Search for 'kindy' at www.qld.gov.au/earlyyearscount

