



**Uniting**



South Gippsland  
Shire Council



South Gippsland

# Central Enrolment for Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Information Booklet



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# What is Kindergarten

**Kindergartens provide an environment in which children's development is stimulated and encouraged by university qualified early childhood teachers and qualified educators. International and national research shows that the benefits of quality early childhood education programs apply for school and for life.**

Kindergarten programs are designed to "encourage children to explore, solve problems, communicate, think, create and construct through a fun combination of child-led and adult-led play-based learning" Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework 2009 (VEYLDF).

The VEYLDF outlines the following high expectations for every Victorian child: that they have a strong sense of identity, are connected with and contribute to their world, have a strong sense of wellbeing, are confident and involved learners and are effective communicators.

The Kindergarten program content is developed with a focus on the interests and developmental needs of each child. Under the guidance of the teacher your child will learn to identify, explore and solve problems; become more independent and confident in their abilities; develop self-discipline; use language to communicate feelings, needs and ideas;

make friends; make their own choices and decisions; take responsibility for their own belongings; learn how to cooperate with other children; and use their creativity to express ideas and feelings through art, dance and dramatic play.

Most importantly, a Kindergarten program will help your child develop a love of learning and be better prepared to start school. Your child will learn through indoor and outdoor play, based on their interests and ideas; real-life experiences, such as cooking, gardening and investigating the world, plus everyday routines and transitions, such as meal times, rest times and group times.

*NB: the terms Kindergarten and preschool are interchangeable.*

# When should I send my child to Kindergarten?

Research shows that engaging children in high-quality learning experiences benefits all children and their families and can improve a child's learning and development outcomes, emotional wellbeing, their longer-term educational and social outcomes and life experiences. It is vital that children receive these benefits when they are emotionally and socially ready for the experience.

## **Three-Year-Old Kindergarten**

Beginning in 2020 the progressive roll out of State Government subsidised three-year-old kindergarten will commence in South Gippsland.

Children will have access of up to 15 hours a week of subsidised kindergarten programs.

Children will be eligible for three-year-old kindergarten if they turn 3 years of age by 30 April in the year they are to attend. Children will be eligible for one year only of subsidised three-year-old kindergarten.

## **Four-Year-Old Kindergarten**

Children will be eligible for four-year-old kindergarten if they turn 4 years of age by 30 April in the year they are to attend.

Children will be eligible for one year only of subsidised four-year-old kindergarten.

Children may be eligible for a second year of four year old kindergarten if they have delays in two areas of development.

## **Children Born January to April**

In line with school starting age, families with children born between January and April will have the choice about which year their child commences kindergarten. This means for three-year-old kindergarten, a child may attend as a younger child, two turning three years old or as an older child, three turning four years old. This then follows on to four-year old kindergarten and Primary School.

It is recommended to consider what age you would like your child to commence Primary school and work backwards. At some kindergartens, they require children to be three years of age prior to commencing kindergarten due to different staff to child ratio's and not having the staff needed to accommodate two-year-olds.

Kindergarten educators, Long Day Care educators, Maternal and Child Health nurses and Pre-School Field Officer can provide valuable information to parents about when to begin the more formal educational journey. Please take the opportunity to visit Kindergarten Open Days to discuss this with a qualified teacher or early childhood educator.



# How do I know if my child is ready for Kindergarten?

There are many factors to consider when thinking about sending your child to Kindergarten, including emotional maturity and social confidence.

Questions to ask yourself include:

- **Can they separate easily from me?**
- **Can they be understood by other people?**
- **Can they express their needs clearly?**
- **Do they have the stamina to attend and enjoy a full Kindergarten session?**

Please speak to a early childhood educator at a Kindergarten, Long Day Care, Maternal and Child Health and Pre-School Field Officer if you are unsure of your child's readiness.

# Early Start Kindergarten

Research indicates that early and sustained participation in quality education and care is especially beneficial for vulnerable children and can improve lifelong social, learning and development outcomes.

In recognition of this, the Department of Education and Training provides funding for eligible children to attend a free or low-cost kindergarten program for the two years before school.

Early Start Kindergarten gives eligible children 15 hours of free or low-cost kindergarten a week. To be eligible, your child must be three by 30 April in the year they'll start kindergarten, and:

- your child is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- your family has had contact with Child Protection (or been referred by them to Child FIRST/Orange Door).



# What is the cost of Kindergarten?

**For more information visit:**

**[www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/parents/kindergarten](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/parents/kindergarten)**

Families not eligible for the kindergarten fee subsidy will be required to pay an attendance fee, set by each Kindergarten to cover the 'gap' between the Government subsidy and the cost of running the program.

In South Gippsland all Kindergarten programs charge different fees depending on their operating model and costs. Some Kindergartens charge a flat rate per term whilst other Kindergartens who offer before and after Kindergarten care have one or two options of either a flat rate per term or daily rate. These services will be able to give you a quote on the most cost effective option for your family.



# Types of Kindergarten Programs

## **Sessional Kindergarten in a stand-alone kindergarten**

Sessional Kindergarten usually refers to a Kindergarten program that operates for specific days and hours each week. In most instances, the same children attend on the same days. For example Kindergarten may be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am - 2:00pm each week.

## **Sessional Kindergarten within a Long Day Care service.**

Sessional Kindergarten within a long day care centre usually means the hours of kindergarten are the same each day but families can choose the days they would like to attend. Before and after kindergarten care is also available for those who require this option on one or more days (at an additional cost). For example Kindergarten may operate from 9:00am - 2:00pm each day with children attending three days. For each family the days may be different meaning your child could be with different children on different days. The before and after kindergarten care means that you are able to drop off and pick up after the designated kindergarten times.

## **Integrated kindergarten and long day care**

Integrated Kindergarten usually refers to kindergarten within a long day care facility. The hours are generally longer and charged by the day with a government child care subsidy instead of term fees. For example; Kindergarten hours may be 8:30am - 4:00pm with a qualified educator, before and aftercare is included and you will be charged the daily rate of the centre and be able to claim your child care subsidy.

# Kindergarten Central Enrolment Scheme Guidelines

South Gippsland Shire Council operates a central enrolment scheme for most funded Kindergartens in the Shire.

Kindergartens are funded by the State Government through the Department of Education and Training (DET).

Funded Kindergarten in South Gippsland is offered at community Kindergartens and long day care centres. They are managed by either not-for-profit volunteer committees, not-for-profit cluster managers and private enterprise.

## What is the Central Enrolment Scheme for Funded Kindergarten?

Through the Central Enrolment Scheme for Funded Kindergarten, families can identify their three local Kindergartens of choice and participate in the allocation process. This provides a pathway for children to access Kindergartens in their local area and ensures a streamlined, transparent and fair allocation process.

# Allocation of Kindergarten places

Each Enrolment will nominate 3 preferences for Kindergarten programs. Children will be allocated to Kindergarten programs in accordance with the South Gippsland Shire Council Enrolment Policy. For example children who have a disability or developmental delay, have qualified for a second year of Funded Kindergarten, are known to Child Protection, have been referred to CHILD FIRST, and/or have deferred their funded Kindergarten year will receive their first preference. Where demand for a program exceeds the number of places available a waitlist will be created in partnership with Kindergarten service providers.



# What can you expect from the Central Enrolment Scheme?

Council recognises that supporting the healthy development of children has significant long term benefits for building strong, resilient communities.

The Central Enrolment Scheme for Funded Kindergarten is provided on behalf of participating committee, cluster managed and private operators of Kindergarten service providers in South Gippsland Shire Council.

## **The scheme aims to:**

- Ensure the maximum number of children receive their Kindergarten preference
- Provide a transparent and equitable allocation process
- Support the enrolment and provision of Funded Kindergarten places
- Maintain relevant data to ensure the effective future planning of services

## **Kindergartens in South Gippsland Shire are:**

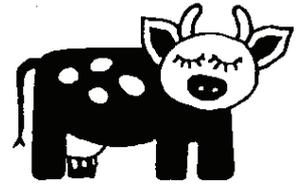
### *Community run Kindergarten Programs*

- Allora Kindergarten (Leongatha Community Preschools)
- Hassett St Kindergarten (Leongatha Community Preschools)
- Leongatha Children's Centre
- Fish Creek Kindergarten (Prom Coast Centres for Children)
- Foster Kindergarten (Prom Coast Centres for Children)
- Karmai Community Childrens Centre (Korumburra)
- Loch Kindergarten
- Meeniyah Kindergarten
- Mirboo North Kindergarten - YMCA Ballarat
- Poowong Kindergarten - Uniting
- Toora Kindergarten (Prom Coast Centres for Children)
- Welshpool Kindergarten (Prom Coast Centres for Children)

### *Independent School Kindergartens*

- Chairo Christian School (Leongatha)

# Leongatha Community Pre-Schools Inc (Allora and Hassett Street Kindergartens)



Leongatha  
Community  
Pre-Schools

1 Symmons Street, Leongatha 3953

9 Hassett Street, Leongatha 3953

5662 2547

[leongatha.preschools@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:leongatha.preschools@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

[www.leongathapreschools.org.au](http://www.leongathapreschools.org.au)

Leongatha Pre-Schools offers sessional kindergarten at two sites, Allora Kindergarten and Hassett Street Pre-school offers a four-year-old Kindergarten program.

2020 fees: \$285 per term or \$1140 per year for four four-year-old Kindergarten.

Three-year-old Kindergarten fees in 2020 are \$95 per term or \$380 per year for five hours of Kindergarten per week. Health Care Card holders are **NOT** required to pay term fees and can attend Kindergarten for **FREE**.

## Leongatha Children's Centre



Leongatha  
Children's  
Centre Inc.

7 Symmons Street, Leongatha, 3953

5662 3533

[leongatha.cc@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:leongatha.cc@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

[www.leongathacc.vic.edu.au](http://www.leongathacc.vic.edu.au)

Leongatha Children's Centre is a not-for-profit community run centre offering a sessional funded three-year-old and four-year-old kindergarten programs five days per week.

Leongatha Children's Centre also offers before and after kindergarten care between the hours of 7:30am -6:00pm.

2020 fees: \$400 per term or \$80 per day with CSS (Child Care Subsidy) available to eligible families. Long Day Care fees apply to those who require extended hours. Health Care Card holders are **NOT** required to pay term fees and can attend Kindergarten for **FREE**. Families requiring before and after Kindergarten care, please contact the centre for a quote of the most cost effective fee structure option.

# Karmai Community Children's Centre (Korumburra)

22 Princes Street, Korumburra, 3950

5655 2121

[admin@kamaiccc.asn.au](mailto:admin@kamaiccc.asn.au)

[www.karmai.org.au](http://www.karmai.org.au)



Karmai offer sessional funded three-year-old and four-year-old kindergarten programs.

Karmai also offers Before and After Kindergarten Care between (6.00am - 6.00pm).

2020 fees: \$350 per term or \$1400 per year. Health Care Card holders are **NOT** required to pay term fees and can attend Kindergarten for **FREE**. Families requiring before and after Kindergarten care, please contact the centre for a quote of the most cost effective fee structure option.

## Loch Kindergarten

18 Smith Street, Loch, 3945

5659 4200

[loch.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:loch.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

[www.lochpreschool.org.au](http://www.lochpreschool.org.au)



Loch Kindergarten offers 15 hours of sessional kindergarten for four-year-olds and 10 hours of a subsidised three-year-old program.

2020 fees: \$300 per term or \$1200 for four-year-old Kindergarten.

Three-year-old Kindergarten fees: \$200 per term or \$800 per year. Health Care Card holders are **NOT** required to pay term fees and can attend Kindergarten for **FREE**.

## Meeniyán Kindergarten

95 Whitelaw Street, Meeniyán, 3956

5664 7316

[meeniyán@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:meeniyán@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

Meeniyán kindergarten offers 15 hours of sessional kindergarten for four-year-olds and a subsidised three-year-old program.

2020 fees: \$240 per term or \$960 per year. Three-Year-Old Kindergarten fees are \$130 per term or \$520 per year for 8 hours of Kindergarten per week. Health Care Card holders are **NOT** required to pay term fees and can attend Kindergarten for **FREE**.



MEENIYAN PRE SCHOOL INC.

## Mirboo North Kindergarten - YMCA

8 Brennan Street

Mirboo North, 3871

5668 1233

[mirboo.north.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:mirboo.north.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

[www.ballarat.ymca.org.au/kindercluster/kinders/MirbooNorth](http://www.ballarat.ymca.org.au/kindercluster/kinders/MirbooNorth)

Mirboo North Kindergarten offers sessional kindergarten for four-year-olds and three-year olds. Three-year-old kindergarten will be delivered at St Andrews Child Care Centre.

2020 fees: \$385 per term or \$1540 per year. Health Care Card holders are **NOT** required to pay term fees and can attend Kindergarten for **FREE**.



## Poowong Kindergarten - UnitingCare Gippsland

12 Ranceby Road, Poowong, 3988

5659 2367

[poowong.els@vt.uniting.org](mailto:poowong.els@vt.uniting.org)

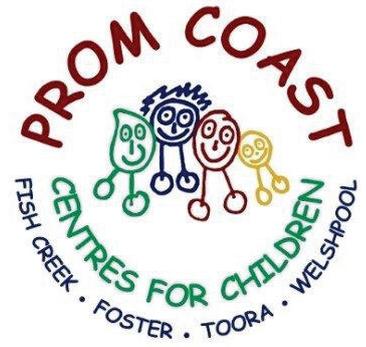
[www.ucgipps.org.au](http://www.ucgipps.org.au)

Poowong Kindergarten offers sessional kindergarten for three and four-year-olds.

2020 fees: \$385 per term or \$1540 per year. Health Care Card holders are **NOT** required to pay term fees and can attend Kindergarten for **FREE**.



# Prom Coast Centres for Children (Foster, Fish Creek, Toora and Welshpool)



Foster, 30 Pioneer Street Foster, 3960

Fish Creek, 2 Ryan Street Fish Creek, 3959

Toora, 25 Gray Street Toora, 3962

Welshpool, Main Street Welshpool, 3966

5683 9800

[admin@pccc.net.au](mailto:admin@pccc.net.au)

<https://pccc.kindergarten.vic.gov.au/>

Prom Coast Centres for Children offer kindergarten programs at four sites, Foster, Fish Creek and Toora and Welshpool.

Foster offers an integrated mixed age three & four-year-old kindergarten. Fees will be charged at the long day care daily rate (\$90 per day). Families can reduce fees through the Child Care Subsidy rebate. Please speak with the centre directly to get an estimate of costs.

Fish Creek Kindergarten offers a standalone sessional kindergarten for three-year-old and a standalone sessional four-year-old kindergarten program.

Toora Kindergarten offers a mixed aged three and four-year-old sessional Kindergarten program.

Welshpool Kindergarten offers a mixed aged three and four-year-old sessional Kindergarten program.

\*Sessional fees for 2020: \$390 per term or \$1560 per year.

Health Care Card holders are NOT required to pay term fees and can attend sessional kindergarten for FREE.

# Chairo Christian School

101 Horn Street, Leongatha, 3953

For enrolment enquiries please contact Wendy on 5662 4355

[leongatha@chairo.vic.edu.au](mailto:leongatha@chairo.vic.edu.au)

[www.chairo.vic.edu.au](http://www.chairo.vic.edu.au)



Chairo Christian School, Leongatha campus offers a funded four-year-old kindergarten program for 15 hours per week and a three-year-old kindergarten program on school grounds. Please contact the school directly to book a tour and learn more about the program and Chairo's philosophy. 2020 fees: \$1690 per year or \$138 for Health Care Card Holders. Three-Year-Old Kindergarten fees are \$563 per year for five hours Kindergarten per week. Health Care Card Holders are entitled to a further subsidy. Additional hours of three-year-old Kindergarten are available upon discussion.



# Appendix 1 - Application Process

## How do I apply?

### Four-Year-Old Kindergarten

#### Step 1

- Eligibility - All children must be four years of age by 30 April in the year they are to attend four-year-old kindergarten.
- Eligible children are entitled to one funded year of kindergarten unless special circumstances apply

#### Step 2

- Online Enrolment Forms are available via <http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/centralenrolment>. Support can be offered by Council Enrolment Officers.
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to nominate three Kindergarten preferences on the enrolment form.

#### Step 3

- Enrolments for first round offers will be accepted from 1st May to 30th June in the year prior to your child/ren attending kindergarten.
- Enrolments received after 30 June will be processed for second and third round offers.
- All documentation must be provided with the enrolment form.

#### Step 4

- Allocation - All enrolments will be categorised using an allocation criteria as set out by Department of Education and Training at a State and Federal Level.
- Offers will be made in order of Government priority of access guidelines, places offered in order of highest priority to lowest. When there are numerous enrolments on the same priority, there is a random selection based on the available kindergarten places.

#### Step 5

- Notification - all applicants will be notified by email from South Gippsland Shire Council

#### Step 6

- Acceptance - To accept or decline an offer the parent/guardian must contact the South Gippsland Shire Council within the time indicated on the email offer.
- To defer an offer the parent/ guardian must contact the South Gippsland Shire Council.

# Appendix 1 - Application Process

## How do I apply?

### Three-Year-Old Kindergarten 2020

#### Step 1

- Eligibility - All children must be three years of age by 30 April in the year they are to attend kindergarten.
- Eligible children are entitled to one funded year of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

#### Step 2

- Online Enrolment Forms are available via <http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/centralenrolment>. Support can be offered by Council Enrolment Officers.
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to nominate three Kindergarten preferences on the enrolment form.

#### Step 3

- Enrolments for first round offers will be accepted from 1st May to 30th June in the year prior to your child/ren attending kindergarten.
- Enrolments received after 30 June will be processed for second and third round offers.
- All documentation must be provided with the enrolment form.

#### Step 4

- Allocation - All enrolments will be categorised using allocation criteria as set out by Department of Education and Training at a State and Federal Level and other criteria as specified in South Gippsland CE Guidelines.
- Offers will be made in order of Government priority of access guidelines and South Gippsland CE, places offered in order of highest priority to lowest. When there are numerous enrolments with the same priority, allocation is random based on the available kindergarten places.

#### Step 5

- Notification - all applicants will be notified by email from South Gippsland Shire Council

#### Step 6

- Acceptance - To accept or decline an offer the parent/guardian must contact the South Gippsland Shire Council within the time indicated on the email offer.
- To defer an offer the parent/ guardian must contact the South Gippsland Shire Council.

# Appendix 2 - Priority of Access Victorian Government for Kindergartens

Priority of Access criteria for three and four-year-old kindergarten.

If more eligible children are seeking a place at a kindergarten service than there are places available, children are required to be prioritised based on the following:

High priority children	Process that could be used to verify need(s)
Children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children in Out-of-Home Care	<p>The child is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• attending a three year old kindergarten through Early Start Kindergarten or Access to Early Learning or,</li> <li>• referred by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child Protection</li> <li>- Child and family services (family services referral and support team, Child FIRST)</li> <li>- Maternal and Child Health nurse, or</li> <li>- Out-of-Home Care provider</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children	Families identified as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
Asylum seeker and refugee children	Appropriate visa that identifies the child and/or parents as a refugee or asylum seeker
Children eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy	Children or parents who hold a Commonwealth Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veteran's Affairs Card and multiple birth children
<p>Children with additional needs, defined as children who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• require additional assistance in order to fully participate in the kindergarten program</li> <li>• require a combination of services which are individually planned</li> <li>• have an identified specific disability or developmental delay</li> </ul>	<p>The child is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assessed as having delays in two or more areas and is declared eligible for a second funded year of kindergarten</li> <li>• approved for Kindergarten Inclusion Support Package, or</li> <li>• referred by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the National Disability Insurance Scheme</li> <li>- Early Childhood Intervention Service</li> <li>- Preschool Field Officer, or</li> <li>- Maternal and Child Health nurse</li> </ul> </li> <li>• holds a Child Disability Health Care Card</li> </ul>

# Federal Government for Child Care Providers

## Priority of Access - Commonwealth Government

**Priority of Access – prioritising vacancies Guidelines for integrated kindergarten and long day care Programs** (Appendix 2).

There are no mandatory requirements for filling vacancies, and providers can set their own policies for prioritising who receives a place. However, as vacancies in a service arise, providers are asked to consider prioritising children who are:

- at risk of serious abuse or neglect
- a child of a sole parent who satisfies, or parents who both satisfy, the activity test through paid employment.

This reflects the Australian Government's intention to help families who are most in need, and support the safety and wellbeing of children at risk in accordance with the [Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009 -2020](#).

<https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-provider-handbook/other-matters-regarding-enrolment-and-allocation-child-care-places>

# Appendix 3 - Priority of Access Three-year-old kindergarten (additional)

**Priority of Access criteria for three-year-old kindergarten.**

**If more eligible children are seeking a place at a kindergarten service than there are places available, children are required to be prioritised based on the following:**

Children will be prioritised for their first preference kindergarten based on priorities listed in order below:

1. Children enrolled under Early Start Kindergarten
2. Children who meet one or more of the following Victorian Government Priority of Access Guidelines (see attachment 1) and are residents of South Gippsland Shire
3. Children who are residents of South Gippsland Shire

If demand exceeds capacity zoning will apply:

As per DET school zonings: <https://www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au/> . Children will be prioritised for a place at the kindergarten which is in the same town as their zoned Government School. Exceptions to this DET zoning priority are for children who reside in areas zoned to a school where that town currently does not also have a kindergarten service, specifically Tarwin Lower and Nyora Primary Schools. In this circumstance applicants will be prioritised to their first preference kindergarten on an individual basis.

4. Children who meet one or more of the following Victorian Government Priority of Access Guidelines (see attachment 1) and are non-residents of South Gippsland Shire
5. Children who are non-resident of South Gippsland