South Gippsland
Central Enrolment for Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Information Booklet
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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.

The State Government provide Kindergarten funding to subsidise 15 hours of Kindergarten for each child in the year before school. A second year of Kindergarten is available for children who meet the eligibility criteria, and are deemed to have a developmental delay in at least two areas. It is important to note that the majority of children are only eligible for ONE year of funded Kindergarten. From 2014, children who withdraw from a funded program once they commence will not be eligible for a second year anywhere in Victoria.

Children are eligible to attend Kindergarten if they are turning four by 30 April in any given year. Some parents choose to wait an extra year especially if their child is born between January and April. The conversations about when a child is ready for Kindergarten and also when a child is ready for school need to take place before the child begins their funded Kindergarten year. Your decision is critical with long reaching implications for your child.
Kindergarten, Long Day Care, Maternal and Child Health and Pre-School Field Officer can provide valuable information to parents about when to begin the more formal educational journey. As each child is only eligible for one year of funded Kindergarten it is important to determine when they would benefit most from starting school and enrol to attend Kindergarten the year before that. Some families may choose to enrol in Pre-Kinder the year prior to their funded Kindergarten program.

It is important that families take the time to make an informed decision now. Please take the opportunity to visit Kindergarten Open Days to discuss this with a qualified teacher or early childhood educator. Alternatively you could talk to your Pre-Kinder teacher, Long Day Care Educator, Pre-School Field Officer or your local Maternal and Child Health Nurse.
What year is my child eligible for Kindergarten?

‘Think carefully about when your child is likely to start school, and therefore when is the best time for the child to have a kindergarten experience’ (Department of Education and Training, 2011).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child was born between</th>
<th>Earliest year eligible to attend school</th>
<th>Earliest year eligible to attend funded 4 year old kindergarten</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/05/2011 - 30/04/2012</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/05/2012 - 30/04/2013</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/05/2013 - 30/04/2014</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/05/2014 - 30/04/2015</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note:

Enrolment of children with a birth date between 1 January and 30 April

Families of children with birth dates between 1 January and 30 April have a choice about whether their child will commence school in the year they turn five or the following year, and therefore whether they commence Kindergarten in the year they turn four or the year they turn five.

All children learn and develop in different ways. Some children may benefit from starting school at a younger age, while other children may benefit from starting later. Families with children born between 1 January and 30 April need to make an informed choice about which year they would like their child to commence school and therefore which year their child will attend a funded kindergarten program.

Families who have questions about the best time for their child to commence school, and hence Kindergarten, should be encouraged to discuss this decision with an early childhood teacher/educator, Maternal and Child Health nurse, Prep teacher or other professionals involved in supporting the development of their child. Early childhood teachers can help to reassure concerned families by discussing the ways in which their child’s individual learning and development needs can be supported within the kindergarten program.

Children are funded by the State Government for ONE year of kindergarten in the year before they commence school. From 2014, children who withdraw from a state funded four year old kindergarten program –once they commence- will not be funded for a second year anywhere in Victoria. A second year of funding can still be applied for if a child has significant development delays in two areas.
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 an 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. Children who turn four between January to April in the year they attend Kindergarten can often struggle and will be with older children.
What is the cost of Kindergarten?

The Victorian State Government subsidises places for eligible children to attend one year of Funded Kindergarten. An additional subsidy is available to eligible families to provide free or low cost Kindergarten.

For more information visit:

Families not eligible for this 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 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.
South Gippsland Shire Council operates a central enrolment scheme for all funded Kindergartens in the Shire. These 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.
Each Enrolment will nominate 3 preferences for Kindergarten programs. Children will be allocated to Kindergarten programs in accordance with State Government Priority of Access guidelines (see Appendix 2). 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:

- Brown Street Children’s Centre Leongatha
- Karmai Community Children’s Centre (Korumburra)
- Leongatha Children’s Centre
- Leongatha Community Pre-schools (Allora & Hassett Street)
- Loch Kindergarten
- Meeniyan Kindergarten
- Mirboo North Kindergarten - YMCA
- Poowong Kindergarten - Uniting Care Gippsland
- Prom Coast Centres for Children (Foster, Fish Creek, Toora/Welshpool)
Brown Street Children’s Centre, Leongatha

48-52 Brown Street, Leongatha, 3953
5662 5533
brownstreet@nurtureon.com.au

Brown Street offers a Kindergarten Program 5 days per week from 9:00am - 4:30pm.
Each day offers 7.5 hours of kindergarten and children would attend two days per week.
Brown Street also offers before and after kindergarten care between the hours of 6:30am -6:00pm.

Fees: 2016 fees are charged at a daily rate of $77.50. Child Care Benefit can be claimed to reduce this fee. Please contact the centre for a quote on the individual cost for your family.
Brown Street Children’s Centre does NOT offer free Kindergarten for Health Care Card holders.

Karmai Community Children’s Centre (Korumburra)

19a Mair Crescent, Korumburra, 3950
5655 2121
admin@kamaiccc.asn.au

Kindergarten will be offered Monday to Friday where families choose the three days their child attends from 8:30am -1:30pm or set days of Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9:00am – 2:00pm. Karmai also offers before and after Kindergarten care between 7:30am - 6:00pm.

Fees: 2016 Kindergarten fees are $275 per term or $1100 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.
Leongatha Children’s Centre

7 Symmons Street, Leongatha, 3953
5662 3533
leongatha.cc@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
www.leongathacc.vic.edu.au

Leongatha Children’s Centre is a not-for-profit community run centre offering a funded 4 year old kindergarten program 5 days per week from 9:00am – 2:00pm. Children attend 3 sessions per week. Leongatha Children’s Centre also offers before and after kindergarten care between the hours of 7:30am -6:00pm.

Fees: 2016 Kindergarten Fees are $280 per term or $1120 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.

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

Allora Kindergarten, 1 Symmons Street, Leongatha 3953
5662 2547

Illawarra – Tuesday, Thursday and every second Monday from 9:00am - 3:00pm.

Hassett Street Pre School, 9 Hassett Street, Leongatha 3953

Friesian - Monday, Wednesday and every second Friday from 9:00am - 3:00pm.
Jersey – Tuesday, Thursday and every second Friday from 9:00am - 3:00pm.

5662 2326
symmons.st.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
leongathapreschools.org.au

Leongatha Pre-Schools offer kindergarten at two sites, Allora Kindergarten and Hassett Street Pre-school. Leongatha Pre-schools offer 30 hours kindergarten per fortnight on a rotational basis with 2 x 6 hour sessions one week and 3 x 6 hour sessions on the alternate week. Kindergarten sessions run from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Fees: 2016 Kindergarten Fees are $250 per term or $1000 per year. Health Care Card holders are NOT required to pay term fees and can attend Kindergarten for FREE.
Loch Kindergarten

18 Smith Street, Loch, 3945
5659 4200
loch.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
www.lochpreschool.org.au

Loch Kindergarten offers sessional kindergarten Monday to Thursday from 9:00am – 2:00pm. Children attend 3 sessions per week.

Fees: 2016 Kindergarten Fees are $221.25 per term or $885 per year. Health Care Card holders are NOT required to pay term fees and can attend Kindergarten for FREE.

Meeniyan Kindergarten

95 Whitelaw Street, Meeniyan, 3956
5664 7316
tarwin.valley.meeniyan.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Meeniyan kindergarten offers sessional kindergarten on Monday Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am – 2:00pm

Fees: 2016 Kindergarten Fees are $200 per term or $800 per year. Health Care Card holders are NOT required to pay term fees and can attend Kindergarten for FREE.

Mirboo North Kindergarten - YMCA

8 Brennan Street
Mirboo North, 3871
5668 1233
mirboo.north.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

www.ballarat.ymca.org.au/kindercluster/kinders/MirbooNorth

Mirboo North Kindergarten offers sessional kindergarten five days a week with children attending two 6 hour sessions and one 3 hour session.

Group 1 – Monday and Tuesday 9:00am – 3:00pm, Wednesday 12:30am – 3:30pm
Group 2 – Wednesday 8:30am – 11:30am, Thursday and Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm

Fees: 2017 Kindergarten Fees are $337.50 per term or $1350 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.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
www.ucgipps.org.au

Poowong Kindergarten offers sessional kindergarten on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00am – 2:00pm. Please enrol directly through the Kindergarten.

Fees: 2016 Kindergarten Fees are $345 per term or $1380 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/Welshpool)

Foster, 30 Pioneer Street Foster, 3960
Fish Creek, 2 Ryan Street Fish Creek, 3959
Toora/Welshpool, 25 Gray Street Toora & Main Street Welshpool
5683 9800
admin@pccc.net.au

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

Foster offers sessional kindergarten on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Before and after kindergarten care is offered at the Foster centre.

Fish Creek offers sessional kindergarten on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30am to 2:30pm.

Toora/Welshpool offers sessional kindergarten on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:15am - 2:15pm. The program operates on a rotating fortnightly basis with Week One at Toora Kindergarten and Week Two at Welshpool Kindergarten.

Fees: 2016 Kindergarten Fees are $345 per term or $1380 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 the most cost effective fee structure option.
Appendix 1 - Application Process
How do I apply?

Step 1
- Eligibility - All children must be four years of age by 30 April in the year they are to attend Kindergarten.
- Eligible children are entitled to one funded year of Kindergarten unless special circumstances apply.

Step 2
- Enrolling your child - Enrolment Forms are available from the South Gippsland Shire Council, maternal and child health, local libraries and some Kindergartens.
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to nominate three Kindergarten preferences on the enrolment form.

Step 3
- Enrolments for first round offers will be accepted from 1 May to 30 June in the year prior to your child/ren attending Kindergarten.
- Enrolments received after 30 June will be processed for second round offers.
- All documentation must be provided with the enrolment form.

Step 4
- Allocation - All enrolments will be categorised using an allocation criteria set out by Department of Education and Training at a State and Federal Government Level.
- Offers will be made in order of government priority of access guidelines.

Step 5
- Notification - All applicants will be notified by email or letter sent by 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 or letter of 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
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High priority children</th>
<th>Process that could be used to verify need(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children in Out-of-Home Care</td>
<td>The child is:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• attending a three year old kindergarten through Early Start Kindergarten of Access to Early Learning or,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• referred by:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Child Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Child and family services (family services referral and support team, Child FIRST)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Maternal and Child Health nurse, or</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Out-of-Home Care provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children</td>
<td>Families identified as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum seeker and refugee children</td>
<td>Appropriate visa that identifies the child and/or parents as a refugee or asylum seeker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy</td>
<td>Children or parents who hold a Commonwealth Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veteran’s Affairs Card and multiple birth children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with additional needs, defined as children who:</td>
<td>The child is:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• assessed as having delays in two or more areas and is declared eligible for a second funded year of kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• approved for Kindergarten Inclusion Support Package, or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• referred by:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• the National Disability Insurance Scheme</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Early Childhood Intervention Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Preschool Field Officer, or</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Maternal and Child Health nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• holds a Child Disability Health Care Card</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Kindergarten Guide 2015
Federal Government for Child Care Providers

Priorities

• **First Priority:** a child at risk of serious abuse or neglect
• **Second Priority:** a child of a single parent who satisfies, or of parents who both satisfy, the work/training/study test under Section 14 of the 'A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999'
• **Third Priority:** any other child.

Within these main categories priority should also be given to the following children:

• children in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
• children in families which include a disabled person
• children in families which include an individual whose adjusted taxable income does not exceed the lower income threshold of $43,727 for 2015-2016, or who or whose partner are on income support
• children in families from a non-English speaking background
• children in socially isolated families
• children of single parents.

A child care service may require a Priority 3 child to vacate a place to make room for a child with a higher priority. They can only do so if you:

• are notified when your child first entered care that your service follows this policy
• are given at least 14 days’ notice of the need for your child to vacate.

Open Days

Attending a local Kindergarten open day provides parents with the opportunity to ask questions and walk through the facilities that they are interested in their child attending.

If you are interested in visiting another facility without an open day below, please contact the centre to organise an appointment.

Mirboo North Kindergarten
Open Day
Monday 23 May 2016 from 10:00am - 2:00pm.

Leongatha Community Kindergartens Inc.
Open Day
27 May from 1:00pm - 2:30pm at both Kindergartens:
Allora Kindergarten
1 Symmons Street, Leongatha
Hassett Street Preschool
9 Hassett Street, Leongatha

Kinder Readiness and Information Night
Wednesday 15 June 2016 from 7:30pm
Hassett Street Preschool
9 Hassett Street, Leongatha

Come to a local Kindergarten Open Day to learn more about your child’s future