



Information on Education System for Children in VIC

Pre-School

A. Childcare

- **Long day care** (often called **Early Learning Centres**) – education and care programs aimed for 0-6 year olds based on each child's developmental needs, interests and experience. It is usually provided for at least 8 hours a day on Monday to Friday for 48 weeks or more per year and often based in a centre. Some long day care services also offer kindergarten programs.
- **Family day care** – care provided at the home of providers who many are parents whose children are older or at school. Local councils or community organisations often administer family day care providers as a group. Children from birth to school age can attend.
- **Occasional care** – shorter sessions of care provided in similar environment to long day care with less formal enrolment processes. Sessions usually run for up to 2 hours to support parents attend appointments or have some rest. Centres providing only occasional care mostly do not have a meal service or space for naps.
- **In-home care** – care provided in children's own home by a carer called a nanny or babysitters. Unlike long day care, family day care, and occasional care, in-home care is not regulated by the Department of Education and Training (Victoria State Government).

B. Playgroups

- Playgroup is a regular group where parents can bring their baby, toddlers and preschool-aged children to play and socialise with each other. Unlike childcare, parents in playgroups are responsible to care for their children.
- Costs are generally free or up to \$10 per session.
- Playgroups are run by parents, local councils, churches or community organisations. Some playgroups have paid staff, who organise the groups and activities.

C. Kindergarten

- The Victorian government is subsidising kindergarten for 15 hours a week for 3 and 4 year olds that it is free of charge. The 3 year old kindergarten is available in certain areas in 2020 and across Victoria from 2022. Children can attend more hours by paying fees.



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- Kindergarten is not compulsory in Victoria but most children attend the 4 year old program to develop skills needed for school.

Primary Schools

- Primary school starts from Prep to Year 6.
- To start Prep, children must be 5 years of age on or before 30 April that year. Children must be at school in the year they turn 6 years old – compulsory school starting age.
- Parents can enrol their children at any time during the year. However, many public schools in Victoria start taking enrolments from May the year before children starting school. So, it is good to plan ahead

Secondary Schools

- Secondary school in Victoria is also known as high school - Year 7 to Year 12.
- In VIC, it is the law that children attend school between 6 and 17 years old or completing Year 10, or attend home schooling. After Year 10, they must enrol in approved education or be in full-time employment.
- Year 11 and 12 students complete the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) to graduate from high school.
- VCE results is a key element to calculate the Australia Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), which is used by universities for students' selection and admission.

Government, Independent and Catholic Schools

- **Government or public schools** are funded by the Government. They provide **free** tuition for children. Parents are still asked to pay some fees for school materials or activities, such as textbooks, uniforms and excursions.



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- **Independent and Catholic schools** are partly funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments, and usually **charge school fees** to attend.