



Information on Education System for Children in TAS

Pre-School

A. Childcare

- **Long day care** (often called **Early Learning Centres**) – education and care programs aimed for 0-5-year old's 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.
- **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 (Tasmania 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.
- **Launching into Learning** is a free program for young children (Birth – 4 years old) and their families. It helps parents and their child get to know their local school and other families. They operate in all Tasmanian Government primary and district schools and Child and Family Centres. Launching into Learning programs support children with their development in an atmosphere of fun and creativity and helps children transition into Kindergarten. Schools focus on the needs



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of their community and make connections with other groups, services and agencies in their area.

C. Kindergarten

- Tasmanian Kindergartens provide 15 hours of early learning experiences in local schools for children who are 4 years of age on or before January 1st of the year they start Kindergarten.
- Kindergarten is not compulsory in Tasmania, 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.
- In Tasmania a child who has turned five on or by 1 January in any year must start Prep in that year or be provided with approved home education.

Secondary Schools

- Secondary school in Tasmania is also known as high school - Year 7 to Year 12.
- Tasmania's Government Senior High Schools are structured differently to some other Australian states. Students studying Years 11 and 12 (approximately 16-18 years of age) attend different campuses to those studying at Junior High Schools (Years 7-10).
- As of 2020 in TAS, Young people need to stay in education or training until they finish Year 12, or receive a Certificate III, or reach the new minimum leaving age of 18
- Year 11 and 12 students complete the Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE) or complete a traineeship or apprenticeship with Tasmanian Traineeships and Apprenticeships Committee (TTAC) to graduate from high school.
- TCE results is a key element to calculate the Australia Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), which is used by universities for students' selection and admission.



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