



Kindy in Queensland

What is kindy?

Kindergarten, known as kindy, is a part-time educational program for children in the year before Prep (the first year of school in Queensland). Kindy is a place where your child will learn through play experiences and interactions that support their early learning, wellbeing and development. By participating in kindy, children develop a love of learning and are supported with their transition to Prep.

Queensland Government-approved kindy programs are delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher. Kindy programs can be offered at early childhood education centres; selected rural and remote and other selected state schools where there have been barriers to access kindergarten; and by distance education or eKindy for some children who cannot access a centre.

Learning at kindy

Kindy provides young children with opportunities to:

- use language to communicate ideas, feelings and needs
- make friends, interact and cooperate with others
- identify issues and develop problem solving skills
- become more confident and independent in their abilities
- connect with, explore and contribute to their world
- build their knowledge and explore new ideas, helping to build their confidence.

How to enrol

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

Your child must be 4 years old by 30 June in the year they enrol to participate in kindy.

Child born	Child can attend kindy
1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019	2023
1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020	2024
1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021	2025
1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022	2026
1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	2027
1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024	2028

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 additional support required (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 program in the year before Prep.

An approved kindergarten program meets government guidelines, and is:

- a 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 Prep
- 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 of approval', that is the image below.



What kindy costs

From 2023, the Queensland Government is making kindy cheaper for many Queensland families. Whether you attend kindy in a sessional kindergarten or kindergarten in a long day care you may be eligible for free kindy or cheaper kindy.

Kindy fees vary depending on the service. Contact your preferred kindy for details about their fees. You can also visit www.qld.gov.au/Kindysavings to check if you are eligible for cheaper or free kindy.

Free or cheaper kindy 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
- have evidence of formal foster or kinship care arrangements
- identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (or have a child who is)
- have three or more children, of the same age, enrolled in the same year
- have a child who is identified as living in a formal child protection out-of-home-care arrangement
- have entered Australia under the Australian Government's Refugee and Humanitarian Program, or are in the process of seeking asylum and hold a temporary visa.

The subsidy for free or cheaper kindy 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 eligible for the Australian Government Family Tax Benefit may also be eligible for reduced fees.

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

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

More information
Visit www.qld.gov.au/kindy