



Moyne Shire Council 2026 Kindergarten Registration Information

Register your interest to enrol at Kindergarten

This guide will help you to understand the steps you need to take to register your child in our 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten programs. For further enquires please contact our Early Years team by phoning 03 5568 0516 or email enrolments@moyne.vic.gov.au

Our aim is to ensure that our process is a simple and fair one so that, wherever possible, all eligible children have access to a kindergarten place that best meets their needs. Before starting the process, we encourage you to read this guide in full so that you have all the information you need about the eligibility criteria and the steps you will need to take in order to register your child in one of our programs.

The staff in our centres also welcome a visit from you and your child so that you can familiarise yourself with the centre and the individual kindergarten program that they offer. Please contact the centres beforehand to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Why should my child go to Kindergarten?

Give your child the best start. Kindergarten is an important part of young children's growth and development and attendance is strongly recommended for all children. Attending kindergarten improves children's health and wellbeing, supports their development, helps them to develop strong social skills and encourages a love of learning. Children who go to a kindergarten program are more likely to be independent and confident and to make a smooth transition to primary school.

Kindergarten is for all children and is inclusive of all children. If your child has a disability or needs additional help with their learning and development, the educators will talk with you about how the program and environment can support your child.

Research consistently shows that two years of kindergarten are better than one. In 2026, every child who is 3 or 4 years of age before 30 April in their year of enrolment will be eligible for 15 hours per week of three-year-old kindergarten, or 15 hours per week of four-year-old kindergarten.

When should my child go to Kindergarten?

Each child learns differently. They have unique learning and developmental needs and interests; for example, children might become toilet trained, learn how to draw and hold a pencil, develop different communication skills, or deal with strong emotions, like frustration or anger, at a range of different ages.

All children will receive two years of funded kindergarten in the years prior to school. However, a third year of kindergarten may be considered appropriate when a child shows delays in at least two key areas of learning and development.

Families with children born between January and April can choose which year to start three-year-old kindergarten. These children can start in the same year they turn three, or in the year they turn four years of age. Due to staffing requirements, children will start attending kindergarten only after their third birthday. This means that some children may not start attending their kindergarten program until part-way into Term 1 and have less time overall as part of a Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program, in comparison to their peers. If this is the case for your child and you accept a place, your child's place will be held until they are old enough to attend.

When your child starts at kindergarten directly impacts the age they will start primary school, so it's helpful to consider the preferred school start age and work backwards. If you feel that your child may benefit from being older when starting school (that is, five years old turning six during their Foundation year), then consider starting your child at Three-Year-Old Kindergarten later. Your child's Maternal and Child Health Nurse or early childhood educator will be a useful resource to discuss your child's readiness for Kindergarten.

If your child will turn 6 before or while they're in their first or second year of funded Kindergarten, you must get an exemption from starting school. Please contact our Early Years team for further advice and assistance if this is the case for your child.

Early entry to kindergarten may be appropriate for some gifted children where families are seeking an early entry to school for their child. However, it is important to note that most children who enrol early in kindergarten are not accepted for early entry into school.

Free Kinder

Free Kinder will continue to be available at our services next year, which means there is no charge for your child to access our programs.

Early Start Kindergarten (ESK)

Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) continues to be available for eligible 3-year-old children, providing 15 hours of kindergarten each week. To be eligible for ESK, children must be aged 3 by 30 April in the year they start kindergarten, and either:

- identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- be from a refugee or asylum seeker background, or
- be from a family that has had contact with Child Protection.

It is important that eligible children are enrolled in ESK, even though 15 hours of Free Three-Year-Old Kindergarten is available to all children. This ensures eligible children have priority of access, and services can receive additional funding and support. Children who are eligible or have access to ESK from 2025, will be able to access Pre-Prep from 2026 (a minimum of 16 hours per week).

Pre-Prep

Funded Four-Year-Old Kindergarten programs across Victoria are gradually increasing from 15 to 30 hours each week by 2036, through the roll-out of Pre-Prep.

There will be no difference between the program offered for Four-Year-Old Kindergarten and Pre-Prep. Pre-Prep offers children more hours to learn and socialise through play.

Pre-Prep will commence in Moyne Shire in 2027, meaning that between 16 and 20 hours will be available for all children enrolled in Four-Year-Old Kindergarten in 2027.

Pre-Prep will be available for children in the priority cohort from 2026, that is children who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; or from a refugee or asylum seeker background; or from a family that has had contact with Child Protection.





Step 1: Register your interest (May-June 2025)

To register your interest to attend one of our kindergarten programs, families are asked to complete a registration form by visiting the Moyne Shire Council website www.moyne.vic.gov.au/kinder

Step 2: Allocation process (August 2025)

When registrations close, our Enrolment Officer will allocate places based on the priority of access criteria.

Step 3: Offers are sent to families (September 2025)

Once kindergarten program models have been confirmed and the allocation of places has been completed, families will be notified of the place that has been offered to their child, at one of our services (including the session days and times for that group).

Step 4: Complete Child's enrolment record (October/November 2025)

Families will be asked to either check and confirm current enrolment information, or complete a comprehensive enrolment form. We will also ask you to provide a copy of your child's birth certificate, an up-to-date Immunisation History Statement, and any documentation relevant to medical conditions or court orders.

Your allocated kindergarten will contact you directly regarding orientation for your child and to help you prepare for kindergarten in 2026.

Eligibility and priority of access criteria for the funded kindergarten program

Moyne Shire Council allocates kindergarten places fairly. When giving out places, Moyne Shire Council gives priority to children who meet the Department of Education's Priority of Access Criteria.

These are children:

- who are at risk of abuse or neglect, including children in Out-of-home care
- who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, or
- from asylum seeker and refugee families with an appropriate visa, or
- your family has had contact with child protection
- with additional needs

These children are given a place first to make sure they do not miss out on early childhood education. For more information on DE's Priority of Access Criteria, visit [Priority of access for early childhood education | Victorian Government \(Priority of access for early childhood education | vic.gov.au\)](#).

Children who meet our local priority criteria are given a place next:

- Children of families residing in Moyne Shire
- Children who attended the preferred kindergarten as a 3 year old enrolment now seeking 4 year old enrolment
- Children who have had siblings attend the preferred kindergarten in the last 5 years

For the rest of the children, a random ballot is used to give each child their highest available preference. There is no 'first in, first served' rule.

Note: DET's Priority of Access (POA) guidelines are to ensure that kindergarten programs are available to those children who stand to benefit the most from attending early education. In mixed age groups, POA guidelines will equally prioritise three and four-year-old children that are considered vulnerable. Where programs for three- and four-year old children are provided separately, the POA criteria will be applied separately for each age cohort.

Evidence of immunisation for enrolment

To have an enrolment confirmed for a child in centre based care or kindergarten, parents/carers need to provide the service with a current Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR); AND the statement must show that the child is up to date with all vaccinations that are due for their age, or that they are able to receive within the two months prior to the child starting at the service

Letters from GPs or local councils are not accepted. An Immunisation History Statement from the AIR is the only type of immunisation record accepted by early childhood education and care services for the purposes of confirming enrolment and must be provided within the two months prior to the child starting at the service.

How can parents/carers get an Immunisation History Statement from the AIR?

You can print a copy of your child's Immunisation History Statement from your MyGov account. If you have difficulty getting a copy via your MyGov account, you can call the AIR on phone 1800 653 809 or visit a Medicare or Centrelink office. Families who do not hold a Medicare card must call the AIR to request an Immunisation History Statement.

About the grace period

Under the legislation, some families are eligible to enrol and commence at the childcare/kindergarten service, under a 'grace period' provision, while they bring their children's vaccinations up-to-date and/or obtain the required documentation.

Children experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage are eligible to enrol in a service under a grace period, without having provided proof of up-to-date immunisation. The grace period provisions allow the family to continue to access early childhood education and care services while receiving information and assistance to get their child's immunisations up to date and to obtain the required Immunisation History Statement from the AIR that needs to be provided to the service. Families who meet any of the following criteria are eligible for the grace period

Evacuated children

- Children evacuated following emergency (such as flood or fire)
- Children in emergency care
- Children in emergency care (for example, emergency foster care) under the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005

Children in the care of an adult who is not their parent

- Children in the care of an adult who is not the child's parent due to exceptional circumstances such as illness or incapacity

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children

- Children identified by their parents as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Other children experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage

- Children who hold or whose parents hold a health care card, pension concession card, Veterans Affairs Gold or White card
- Children from a multiple birth of triplets or more
- Children who are refugees or asylum seekers
- Children known to child protection
- Children who are on or who have been on a Child Protection Order
- Children in or who have been in foster care or out-of-home care
- Children who have a report made about them under the Children Youth and Families Act 2005
- Families that have received support through Family Services including ChildFIRST; Services Connect; a community-based child and family service; or an integrated family service.



Our Kindergartens

Moynes Shire Council provides kindergarten programs at the following locations. The program models listed are applicable to 2025. 2026 program models will be confirmed once enrolment numbers are known.

Port Fairy Community Services Centre
16 Atkinson Street, Port Fairy
(03) 5568 0516
pfcsc@moyne.vic.gov.au

Four-year-old kindergarten
8.45 am – 1.45 pm Monday to Friday

Three-year-old kindergarten
8.45 am – 1.45 pm Monday to Friday

Children attend 3 days per week

Merri Kindergarten
1126 Hopkins Highway Purnim West
(03) 5565 4380
merri.kindergarten@moyne.vic.gov.au

Mixed age group
9.00 am – 2.00 pm Monday to Friday

Children attend 3 days per week

Macarthur Kindergarten
21 Heckfield Street, Macarthur
(03) 5576 1296
macarthur.kindergarten@moyne.vic.gov.au

Mixed age group
8.45 am – 1.45 pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Hawkesdale Family Services Centre
66 Mitchell Street Hawkesdale
(03) 5560 7356
hdfsc@moyne.vic.gov.au

Mixed age group
8.30 am – 1.30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Koroit & District Kindergarten
60 High Street Koroit
(03) 5565 8276
koroit.kindergarten@moyne.vic.gov.au

Four-year-old kindergarten
8.45 am – 1.45 pm Monday to Friday

Three-year-old kindergarten
8.45 am – 1.45 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Children attend 3 days per week

Nullawarre Kindergarten
132 Henry's Sawmill Road Nullawarre
0407 107 162
nullawarre.kindergarten@moyne.vic.gov.au

Mixed age group
8.45 am – 1.45 pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Mortlake Kindergarten
1 Park Street, Mortlake
(03) 5599 2383
mortlake.kindergarten@moyne.vic.gov.au

Mixed age group
8.45 am – 1.45 pm Monday to Friday

Children attend 3 days per week

Contact us

For further information about Moyne Shire Council children's services, please contact our Early Years Team via email enrolments@moyne.vic.gov.au or phone (03) 5568 0516

www.moyne.vic.gov.au