



Starting

Kindergarten

Contents

Do you need information in a language other than English?	3
Why is Kindergarten important?	4
What to expect in Kindergarten	5
Your child's year	6
How will my child learn?	7
What will my child learn?	8
Why is play important?	9
How will I know about my child's progress?	10
Connection to Country	11
Attending Kindergarten	12
When can my child start	13
How do I enrol my child?	13
How often can my child attend?	14
Can my child start Kindergarten early?	14
Every day matters	15
Getting ready for Kindergarten	16
Before the first day	17
What your child needs	18
Getting your child ready for learning	18
The first day	19
Supporting your child	20
Staying Healthy	21
Health and wellbeing	22
Immunisations and allergies	23
Sickness and injuries	23
Eating at Kindergarten	24
Toileting	24
How can I be involved in my school community?	25
Support, contacts and website links	26

Welcome to Kindergarten

Starting Kindergarten is an exciting and important milestone for children and families.

This booklet includes information to help you and your child enjoy a happy and positive start to the early years of school.



Do you need an interpreter service?

1. Phone 131 450 to call the Telephone Interpreter Service for free.
2. Ask for an interpreter in your language.
3. Tell the operator the phone number of the school you would like to call. They will get an interpreter on the phone to assist you.

Why is Kindergarten important?

In Tasmania, Kindergarten is the year before children start primary school. Kindergarten is an important part of your child's school journey. It builds on the wide range of learning your child experiences at home, in their community and through other early childhood services.

In Kindergarten your child will learn the skills they need to be confident and involved learners. Kindergarten teachers work together with families to support each child to establish a strong foundation for future learning.

The knowledge, skills, understandings, and values your child learns in Kindergarten, helps them become confident and creative individuals, successful lifelong learners, and informed members of our community.





What to expect

in Kindergarten

Your child's year

Your child will enjoy many learning activities in Kindergarten. These may include:

constructing,
building with
blocks, playing
with puzzles



talking, listening,
working with
other children



using digital
technologies,
computers,
cameras,
microscopes,
bots



dressing up,
imaginative and
dramatic play



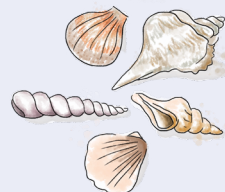
climbing,
running,
jumping,
balancing,
hopping, riding
bikes, learning
ball skills



counting,
learning about
shapes, length,
weight, and
volume



learning about
other cultures,
going on
excursions



playing with
water, sand,
playdough, clay,
and working with
wood



painting,
drawing, collage,
cutting and
pasting, writing



playing and
listening to
music, singing,
dancing



listening to
stories, reading
books and
storytelling



making friends,
working in
groups, sharing



How will my child learn?

Children in Tasmanian Kindergartens are seen as competent and capable. This means that teachers look for what your child can do, and how they can extend their learning.

In Kindergarten, children learn:

- through play based, planned activities both in the classroom and in the playground.
- from other children and adults.
- as part of the whole group, in small groups and on their own.
- from the learning environment, both indoors and outdoors.

The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia V2, guides teachers to plan purposeful learning environments and Kindergarten programs.

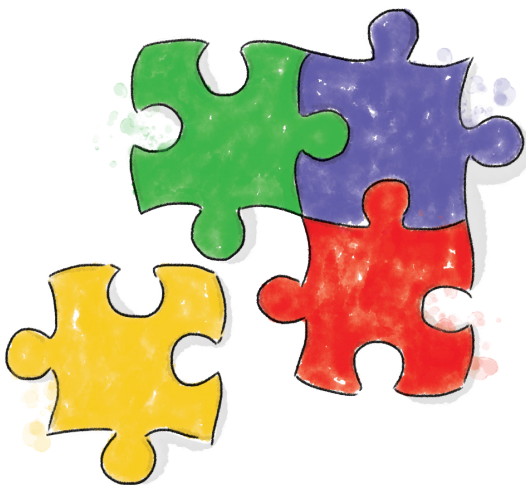


What will my child learn?

Kindergarten teachers plan learning activities based on the five learning outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia V2 and build on your child's interests and ideas to extend what they are learning at home or at childcare.

Through these activities, your child will learn:

- **personal and social skills**, such as independence, confidence and working with others.
- **physical skills**, such as hopping, jumping, skipping, holding a pencil, and coordination.
- **language skills**, such as asking questions, learning new words and listening to others.
- **thinking skills**, such as solving problems, concentrating, early literacy and numeracy skills.
- **about the world around them** and how they can contribute to their community.



Click here for more information about the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia V2 - [EYLF-2022-V2.0.pdf](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/eylfs/eylfs-2022-v2.0.pdf) ([acecqa.gov.au](https://www.acecqa.gov.au))

Why is play important?

Play helps your child build their confidence, competence, and physical skills. It also helps your child's brain make connections. When children play, they learn to think, solve problems and make decisions. They experiment, take risks and learn through trial and error. Simple things like playing together with a ball, dolls or blocks can stimulate brain development.

Play helps children develop:

- literacy and numeracy skills.
- physical skills (fine and gross motor).
- confidence, communication, and social skills.
- critical thinking and problem solving skills.
- creativity, imagination, and self-expression skills.
- language and communication skills.
- self-image, regulation and personal skills.



How will I know about my child's progress?

You will be given many opportunities throughout the year to discuss your child's progress and learning, including:

Conversations between teachers and families:

schools provide the opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher, usually once a term during the year.

The Kindergarten Development Check (KDC):

is a screening tool teachers use twice a year to check your child's developmental progress, in the areas of thinking, language, physical, social, and behavioural skills. You will receive a copy of your child's KDC results.

Evidence of Learning Progress:

teachers provide work samples or observations of your child, which are linked to the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia V2 learning outcomes. These are used to plan individual learning goals for your child.

Regular contact:

teachers will let you know of important or exciting developments as your child achieves them, often through a chat at pick up time, a phone call or through a school communication app (e.g. Seesaw). You are welcome to contact the school at any time you have a question, concern, or would like to share other information.

For further information about assessment or reporting, please contact your child's school.





Connection to Country

“Providing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to see themselves, their identities and cultures reflected in their environment is important for growing a strong identity.” Early Years Learning Framework for Australia V2, P.16.

During their time at Kindergarten, your child will learn about Tasmanian Aboriginal cultures and perspectives, through play activities specifically designed for Kindergarten. Some Kindergartens include an early years ‘Acknowledgment of Country’ regularly into their program, as well as other ways to ensure that all children can feel a sense of belonging.



Attending

Kindergarten

When can my child start?

In Tasmania, children can attend Kindergarten in the year they turn five. If your child is four by the 1st January, you can enrol them to start Kindergarten for that year.

How do I enrol my child?

Click here to [find your local school](#) and use the [school directory](#) to find contact information, to enrol your child.

The school staff will give you an enrolment form to complete. To complete the enrolment, you will need:

- proof of identity for you and your child.
- evidence of your child's residential address.
- your child's medical information, such as allergies, immunisation history and other needs they may have.

This enrolment information helps create positive and safe learning environments for all children.



Click here for more information about enrolling in school - [Enrolling your child at school - Department for Education, Children and Young People \(decyp.tas.gov.au\)](#)

How often can my child attend?

Kindergarten programs are part-time. Every school offers at least 15 hours of Kindergarten per week, over two or three days. Check with your school about Kindergarten days and hours, as these vary depending on the school.

Many schools have access to Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) programs if you need care for your child before or after Kindergarten times.

Can my child start Kindergarten early?

Your child may be able to start Kindergarten early if:

- they have been formally identified as gifted, or
- they have been enrolled in a school before in another state or territory.

If you believe your child is gifted, they may be able to start Kinder when they are 3 years and 6 months old on January 1. You can also contact the principal of your local school to discuss your options.

Click here
for more
information
about [gifted
children](#).



Every day matters

Going to Kindergarten every day gives your child every chance to learn, grow, and connect with their friends and teachers.

Each day of Kindergarten helps your child build on what they learned the day before, develop friendships with other children, and gain the important skills they need as they move through to further education.

Talk to your child's teacher or the school principal if you have any concerns about your child's attendance.

There will be times during the year, when your child is unable to attend Kindergarten. It is important to let the school know when your child is absent and the reason why. The school can then offer support to you and your family if needed.



Click here for more information about the importance of attending every day - [Every school day matters campaign](#) - Department for Education, Children and Young People (decyp.tas.gov.au)



Getting ready

for Kindergarten

Before the first day

It is never too early to start preparing for your child's first day of Kindergarten.

In the months before:

- attend a Launching into Learning or Pre-Kindergarten session at your local school to meet other children and get to know the classroom.
- play at the school playground on the weekend.
- take regular walks past your local school to help them learn the way.
- practice opening their lunchbox drink bottle and school bag.
- have positive conversations about what they might do in Kindergarten.

In the days before:

- have a trial run and practice getting ready in the morning.
- talk about what is likely to happen during their day. See page six for some ideas.
- create opportunities for your child to ask questions and share any worries they might have.



What your child needs

Your child will need a few important things for their first day. Make sure they have:

- ✓ a school uniform – new and second hand uniforms should be available to buy at your school.
- ✓ school shoes and socks – most schools recommend shoes with Velcro straps as many young children struggle with laces.
- ✓ a hat – most schools have a hat as part of their uniform.
- ✓ a backpack
- ✓ a lunchbox and drink bottle

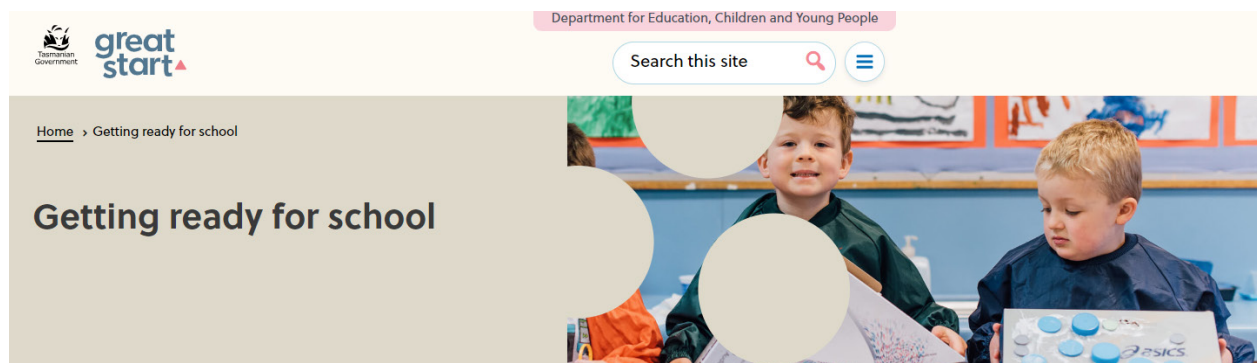
You may like to pack some spare clothes in your child's bag.

Don't forget to name everything! Lunchboxes, water bottles, and jumpers are easily lost!

Getting your child ready for learning

The department's Great Start website provides a collection of services and resources to help families and carers of children from birth to eight years. On the website you will find activity ideas, blog articles, information and advice to help you and your child prepare for learning in Kindergarten.

Click here for more information about [Great Start](#).



The first day

The first day of Kindergarten is an exciting and sometimes emotional time. Your child will look to you for how to feel and react. You can make the first day a great day by:

- arriving with plenty of time to settle in.
- pointing out the toilets, where to get a drink and where their belongings will be kept.
- getting comfortable in the classroom by reading a book or doing a puzzle together.
- checking that your child and their teacher both know who will be there to pick them up at the end of the day.
- when it is time to leave give your child a quick goodbye hug or wave. This helps your child feel settled and ready to join their class. Talk to your child's teacher if you need help establishing a positive goodbye routine.

Don't forget to apply sunscreen, pack your child's hat and take plenty of photos!



Supporting your child

Your support throughout the year will help your child feel confident and ready to take on new challenges in and outside the classroom.

You can support your child's first year by:

- having regular conversations with your child's teacher, to share interests, abilities and any changes in your child's life that may impact their learning.
- setting aside time to talk with your child about their day. The [Let's Talk website](#) has some useful resources and ideas to help you have rich and engaging conversations with your child.
- sharing books, singing songs and playing together.
- support Kindergarten programs whenever possible. This might mean returning library books, going on excursions, helping in the classroom etc.





Staying

Healthy

Health and wellbeing

[The School Health Nurse Program](#) promotes health and wellbeing in many ways. They offer Kindergarten Health checks which focus on vision, hearing, and other developmental checks and they are available to chat about topics such as transition to school, personal hygiene, lunchboxes, healthy sleep habits, and general wellbeing at school.

You can contact the School Health Nurse via the office if you'd like to speak with them about any concerns or questions regarding the health and wellbeing of your child.

The Child Health and Parenting Service (CHaPS) offers a free Healthy Kids Check for children between three and a half to five years old. This check is an opportunity to discuss school readiness and talk about any other developmental questions or concerns you might have.

For more information about the Healthy Kids Check and other CHaPS health checks and services you can call them on 1300 065 544 to make a booking (no referral is needed). You can also visit their website:

[Child Health and Parenting Service \(CHaPS\) | Tasmanian Department of Health](#)



Immunisations and allergies

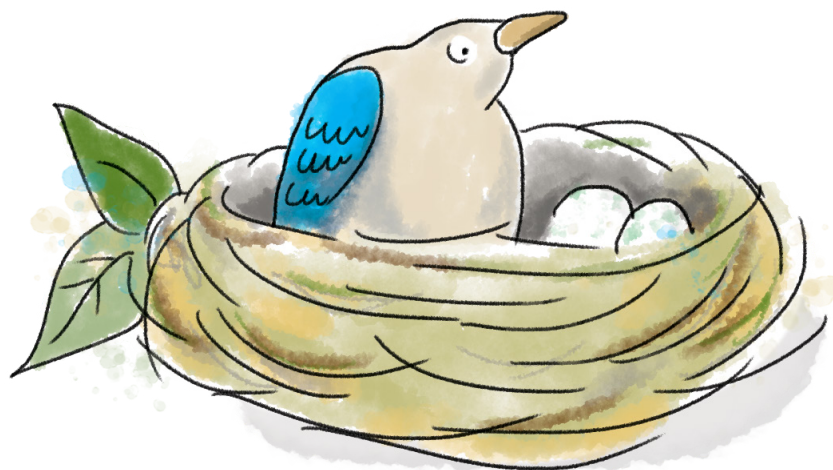
You will be asked to provide information about immunisations and any known allergies when you enrol your child. To make sure your child's immunisations are up to date, make an appointment with your local GP or attend a free vaccination clinic at your local council.

You should also tell the school if your child has any known allergies that require treatment or medical assistance. The school might ask you to complete a medical action plan and other paperwork at this time. This will ensure the school staff are best prepared to help your child when needed.

Click here for more information about [Childhood Vaccinations](https://www.health.tas.gov.au/)
(<https://www.health.tas.gov.au/>)

Sickness and injuries

If your child is sick, they may need to stay home from kindergarten. If you are unsure, see your doctor. It is important to tell the school if your child is sick in case they need to let other families know of any symptoms to look for in their children. If your child becomes unwell or gets injured at kindergarten, the school will contact you and may ask you to collect your child from school. It is important to keep your contact details up to date, including another contact if you are unavailable.



Eating at Kindergarten

Eating at Kindergarten can be a very different experience for some children. They may sit on the grass, at a table or need to balance their lunch box on their knees. So, they need to know how to manage their lunch box and open any food wrappings by themselves.

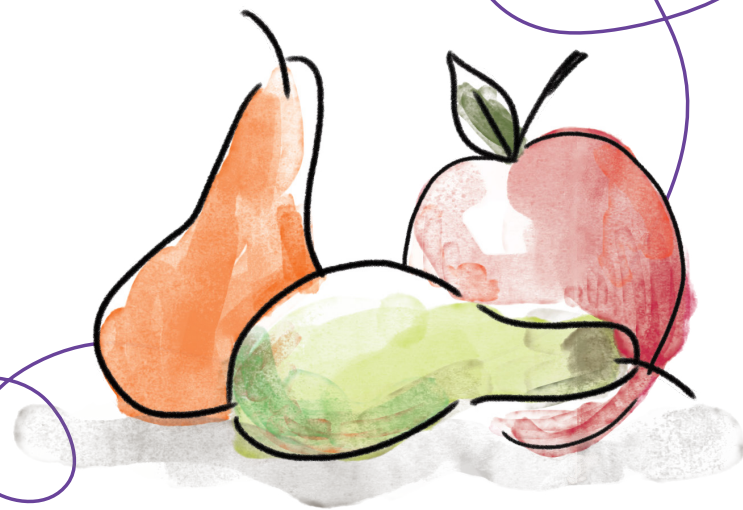
Your child will likely have different food in their lunch box from the other children, so it is important to discuss not sharing food with others or accepting food from others in case of allergies, cultural or family lifestyle preferences.

Some children are so busy at Kindergarten, they choose not to eat all the food you provide, so they can spend more time playing. Talk to your child's teacher if you are concerned in any way about your child eating at Kindergarten.

Toileting

Please assist your child to learn to manage going to the toilet by themselves before they start Kindergarten. This includes managing clothing, using toilet paper, and washing their hands. Some children will require assistance with toileting for medical reasons. Schools have a plan to assist children and families. Talk to your child's teacher for more information.

CHaPS also offer a service for night time bedwetting for children over five, called the Wetaway Program. Call 1300 065 544 to make a booking (no referral is needed).



How can I be involved in my school community?

Connect via social media or school apps:

many schools use a website, school app or social media like Facebook, to share information about school events. This is a great way to hear about ways you can be involved in the school community.

School committees:

schools usually have a 'Parents and Friends' or 'School Association' group. These provide the opportunity to actively help the school and be involved in school decision making.

Help in the classroom:

volunteers and visitors are welcomed into the school environment as valued school members and role models. Each school is different, so you will need to talk to the teacher or principal about ways you can volunteer.

Click here for more information about volunteering in schools - [Volunteers and visitors in schools - Department for Education, Children and Young People \(decyp.tas.gov.au\)](https://decyp.tas.gov.au)



Support, contacts and website links

- [Early Years Learning Framework-2022-V2.0.pdf \(acecqa.gov.au\)](#)
- [Home - Department for Education, Children and Young People \(decyp.tas.gov.au\)](#)
- [Find your local school - Department for Education, Children and Young People \(decyp.tas.gov.au\)](#)
- [School directory - Department for Education, Children and Young People \(decyp.tas.gov.au\)](#)
- [Enrolling your child at school - Department for Education, Children and Young People \(decyp.tas.gov.au\)](#)
- [Great Start - Department for Education, Children and Young People, Tasmania \(greatstart.tas.gov.au\)](#)
- [Great Start - Gifted children \(greatstart.tas.gov.au\)](#)
- [Every school day matters campaign - Department for Education, Children and Young People \(decyp.tas.gov.au\)](#)
- [Launching into Learning - Great Start \(greatstart.tas.gov.au\)](#)
- [Let's Talk \(talk.tas.gov.au\)](#)
- [School Health Nurse Program - Department for Education, Children and Young People \(decyp.tas.gov.au\)](#)
- [Child Health and Parenting Service \(CHaPS\) | Tasmanian Department of Health](#)
- [Childhood vaccinations | Tasmanian Department of Health](#)
- [Volunteers and visitors in schools - Department for Education, Children and Young People \(decyp.tas.gov.au\)](#)

For further information please contact either:

- Learning Services Southern Region
Phone: (03) 6165 6466
Email: Learning.Services.S@decyp.tas.gov.au
- Learning Services Northern Region
Phone: (03) 6777 2440
Email: Learning.Services.NR@decyp.tas.gov.au



