



KINDERGARTEN FUNDING

Early Start Kindergarten

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Purpose of this guide

This guide has been developed to give long day care service providers information about applying for Early Start Kindergarten grants to support eligible children and families.

This booklet has been designed with the Department of Education to be used in conjunction with the following additional ACA Victoria publications, available on the ACA Victoria website <https://vic.childcarealliance.org.au/services/kinder-funding-support>

- *Kindergarten Funding: Why Should I Apply?*
- *Kindergarten funding: How do I apply?*
- *Kindergarten Funding: What Happens Next?*
- *Models: Delivering a three-year-old program in long day care*
- *Models: Delivering a four-year-old program in long day care*

For up-to-date information, refer to the Department's page on [kindergarten funding requirements](#).

For questions and ongoing support about funding requirements, call ACAV on (03) 9532 2017.

Introduction

Research has shown that children experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage benefit the most from two years of kindergarten compared with one year, with 15 hours a week the minimum amount required for most children. Early Start Kindergarten provides the opportunity for eligible children to access two years of funded kindergarten, including programs run in long day care centres.

This comprehensive guide covers all aspects of an Early Start Kindergarten grant, including eligibility, the application process, financial considerations and program models.

If your service does not currently deliver a funded kindergarten program, but meets the eligibility criteria, you can enter into a service agreement with the Department, just for the purpose of offering ESK. Contact your [regional office](#) for more information.



Early Start Kindergarten

[Early Start Kindergarten](#) (ESK) provides eligible children with 15 hours of free or low-cost kindergarten each week led by an Early Childhood Teacher within a kindergarten program. This enables these children to access two years of funded kindergarten before school.

Eligibility requirements for children

To be eligible for ESK, children must be **three years old** by 30th April in the year they are attending the kindergarten program **and**:

- Are from a refugee or asylum seeker background (if the child holds or has a parent or guardian who holds a protection or humanitarian visa, ImmiCard, or exemption from the Department of Education and Training) or
- Are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, **or**
- Have had contact with Child Protection (a family or child who have a current, or a history of, involvement with Child Protection. This includes children in out-of-home care, children with a sibling who has been known to child protection, a child or family who has been referred by Child Protection to another support service, or any child where an unsubstantiated notification has been made to child protection).

For further details see the Departments website page [Early Start Kindergarten for professionals](#).

Referrals

Children do not need a referral, but they may have one from professionals such as Maternal and Child Health Nurses, Child Protection practitioners, family service organisations or Child First.

It is important to note that seeking evidentiary proof of eligibility for ESK can act as a barrier to access for children that have the most to gain from engagement in your service. It is recommended that eligibility be established directly with parents or through the referring professional. Eligibility can be established verbally or in writing from a parent or professional supporting the family. No other action or information is required to determine eligibility. You are required to document the date and source of advice of eligibility in the child's enrolment records.

Children born between 1 January and 30 April

Children whose birthdays fall between 1 January and 30 April have the choice of year they will start school. Parents and carers need to be consulted about the intended year children will start school before determining which year they access ESK. Many considerations need to be taken into account, including the child's developmental milestones and the family circumstances. It also needs to be noted that children will not be able to access two years of a funded three-year-old kindergarten, but services can continue to apply for a second year of funded four-year-old kindergarten where required.

Priority of Access criteria

It is a condition of receiving kindergarten funding that you will adhere to these guidelines, so plan accordingly to enable you to prioritise the enrolments of these families.

HIGH PRIORITY CHILDREN
Children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children who: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- are in Out of Home Care- are eligible for ESK or Access to Early Learning (AEL)
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children
Asylum seeker and refugee children
Children eligible for Kindergarten Fee Subsidy, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- a parent or child who holds a Health Care Card- multiple birth children (triplets or more)
Children with additional needs, defined as children who: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- require additional assistance to fully participate in the kindergarten program- require a combination of services which are individually planned- have a specific disability or developmental delay

Eligibility requirements for services

You can apply for the ESK grant if you have an eligible child, are an approved provider of a registered service and your service meets the following criteria:

- Provides a kindergarten program (see below) run by a qualified early childhood teacher who is registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching
- Offers a kindergarten program for at least 15 hours per week for 40 weeks of the year, or 600 hours per year that aligns with the [Victorian Early Years Development Framework](#).
- Is receiving per capita funding from the Department

Your centre does not need to refer to the program as “kindergarten” to be eligible for ESK and the program could be run in a 3-4 room, 3-5 room or a 4-5 room if the criteria above are met.

The full details and eligibility criteria for funding are outlined in the [Kindergarten Funding Guide](#).

Further kindergarten program information

It is important for educators to support the children and families by developing positive relationships and providing a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment. Educators’ commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion has a significant impact on children’s learning outcomes and their social and emotional wellbeing. The VEYDLF practice principle, in particular, ‘Equity and Diversity’ addresses this important aspect of program planning. Funds from the ESK grant (after parent fees have been accounted for) can be used to enhance the program and provide resources to support individual children’s needs. Please see page 13 for more information.

Service providers and educators should also be familiar with support services available, including:

- [Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc\(VAEAI\)](#) – information for educators on providing a culturally safe environment for Aboriginal families
- [Victorian Inclusion Agency](#) – information for educators to support Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) families and children with disabilities.
- [Australian Childhood Foundation](#) – information about child abuse and vulnerable children as well as professional development on topics such as trauma informed practice.

Other eligibility criteria

Service providers need to ensure that all financial barriers are removed, enabling families to access the kindergarten program with no security deposits and no fees for the 15 hours of kindergarten attendance per week. This can be done by using the ESK grant amount to cover the families' gap fees, after applying the families' Child Care Subsidy amount or [Additional Child Care Subsidy](#) (if applicable).



Early Start Kindergarten grants

Early Start Kindergarten grants are available to support eligible children to participate in the funded kindergarten program at your service for free or low cost to the family. Check the Department website for up to date [funding rates](#).

Applying for the grant

Service providers should apply for ESK grants through the Kindergarten Information Management System (KIM) as soon as the child is enrolled. Visit the 'Knowledge' tab in KIM and view the reference guide: *How to create and submit an ESK or AEL Funding Request* for instructions on how to complete an ESK funding request.

Service providers should apply for ESK extension grants (see below) when entering the child as a 'Year Before School' enrolment in KIM.

Both enrolments can occur at any time of the year. If the child leaves the service, you must remove the enrolment from KIM (even though the funding will not be recouped).

Visit the [KIM](#) page for further information.

Service providers not registered to use the KIMS should contact the appropriate Departmental [regional office](#).

Additional KIM requirements

Once you have enrolled the family and applied through KIM, there are the following additional requirements:

- Document and maintain Early Start Kindergarten eligibility in the child's enrolment record and in KIM
- Complete the Attendance Tracker via KIM each term for all children enrolled in ESK. The tracker will ask for the number of hours each child in ESK attended per week and reasons for any absences

ESK grants and the 3-year-old kindergarten roll-out

The Victorian Government is investing almost \$5 billion over ten years so that children across the state will have access to two years of funded kindergarten before school. The program will be rolled out over several years, starting with six council areas in 2020, and an additional 15 in 2021.

From 2022, 3-year-olds across the rest of the State will have access to 5 hours in a kindergarten program led by an early childhood teacher. The hours will then increase up to the full 15-hour program by 2029.

During the three-year-old kindergarten roll-out there will be no change to ESK accessibility, and you should continue to enrol eligible children in 15 hours per week of kindergarten through ESK. This guarantees that ESK eligible children continue to access the full 15 hours in all service settings, including long day care, irrespective of the number of hours of funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten offered.

It also ensures that service providers can continue to receive all funding entitlements. ESK enrolments contribute to [School Readiness Funding](#) calculations for service providers.

For more information about School Readiness Funding, refer to the ACAV publication, Kindergarten Funding: What Happens Next?

ESK grants and Child Care Subsidy

ESK grants are annual one-off payments made directly to service providers from the Department (State government) for each ESK enrolment.

The Federal government provides fee assistance for early childhood education and care through the [Child Care Subsidy](#) (CCS) and [Additional Child Care Subsidy](#) (ACCS).

ESK grants can be accessed when families are also accessing CCS and/or ACCS. ESK will not impact CCS or ACCS payments. Where there is a gap fee to be paid (after applying CCS), the ESK grant must be used to cover that cost for the family. Please refer to pages 15-23 in the guide for program and financial models to help demonstrate how this works. Where the family are accessing ACCS and there are no fees, the service needs to use the ESK grant to cover any other expenses for that family. This could include extra days, resources, and excursions (see page 13 for further suggestions).

Managing the grant with CCS and ACCS

ESK grants are administered separately from CCS and ACCS. They are a one-off annual payment to service providers and are not linked directly to families' accounts.

You can decide how to use these funds to ensure that the kindergarten program for eligible children is free. Service providers will set up internal processes for tracking income and expenditure regarding ESK funding.

Ideally the ESK program will be delivered for 15 hours per week to maximise the learning and development opportunities. Where this is not possible, pro rata payments are available.

Department supports for inclusion

Early Childhood Improvement Branches (ECIB)

Service providers can access support and guidance from the Early Childhood Improvement Branch (ECIB) based in their region which can be contacted via email [here](#).

Koorie Education Support Officers

[Koorie Education Support Officers \(KESOs\)](#) are area-based professionals with an understanding of Aboriginal culture. KESOs provide advice to early childhood services about culturally inclusive learning environments, co-ordination of services to support engagement and improved outcomes for Koorie children.

Early Childhood Lookout Advisers

LOOKOUT Early Childhood Learning Advisors (ECLAs) work across region-based [LOOKOUT](#) Centres to facilitate children who are in Out Of Home Care to participate in early learning services and play a key role in the implementation of [The Early Childhood Agreement for Children in Out of Home Care](#). They provide support to educators, carers and agencies to ensure vulnerable children can access high quality early learning services.

Access to Early Learning

[Access to Early Learning](#) (AEL) is an early intervention program that enables vulnerable three-yearold children from families with complex needs to fully participate in a high-quality early learning program. The Department of Education funds family service organisations and Councils across the State to operate the AEL program in 25 local government areas.

AEL provides an experienced and degree-qualified facilitator to work with families, educators and services to ensure vulnerable children participate in early learning. Each AEL site supports a minimum of 16 children per year which are referred to the program by Child Protection, family services, Child FIRST or Enhanced Maternal and Child Health.

AEL funds a free or low-cost kindergarten for 15 hours a week through the AEL grant. Like ESK, AEL is a one-off funding amount which is paid at the same rate as the ESK grant and can be used in conjunction with the Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy. AEL grants should be used in the same way as an ESK grant (See 'Using the funding' on page 13). Your local AEL provider will advise you if a child enrolling in kindergarten at your service is participating in AEL.

Delivering ESK in your service

Eligible children can access ESK in a kindergarten program as part of their regular long day care booking. Hours and days can vary to suit the needs of the child and family as long as the children access at least 15 hours a week. In long day care services, children normally access ESK through attending two or three days per week. Please see the models on pages 15 – 23 for more information on how this works

Mixed age programs

Eligible children can access ESK in mixed age group settings, such as 3-5 years or 2-5 years as long as the criteria for a kindergarten program are being met.

3–4-year-old programs

Eligible children can access ESK in a 3–4-year-old group if the teacher is present for 15 hours or more. If the teacher is present for less than the required 15 hours, then the recommendation would be that the child spend the whole 15 hours in the program where the teacher was present for the whole time (i.e., in the 4–5-year-old program) to ensure continuity for the child and family.

4-year-old programs

Eligible children can access ESK in a 4–5-year-old kindergarten room if it is the only option available and ensures the engagement of the child into a kindergarten program. The needs and interests of the child need to be considered and it is important that the teacher ensures that the environment is nurturing and supportive.

Using the funding

Service providers must use the funding to ensure that eligible children can attend the kindergarten program at no cost to the family. You are also strongly encouraged to explore options that may be available that ensure hours of care outside the kindergarten program are also at no cost to the family.

The grants can also be used in a variety of ways if there are funds remaining:

- To provide resources specific to the children/family needs, e.g., culturally diverse books and equipment.
- To pay for additional costs like excursion or incursion fees for the family.
- Professional development for educators, including trauma informed practice or cultural diversity.
- As part of your overall budget towards the cost of employing a teacher

If the annual grant has been paid and a child has left the service prior to completing a full year, you can use those funds to support other eligible children as the funds will not be recouped. In the instance where a child moves to another service with the same Approved Provider you can redirect funding to the service the child has moved to through KIM.

ESK Extension grant

ESK Extension grants have the same eligibility criteria, and conditions as Early Start Kindergarten grants.

ESK Extension Grants are available for eligible 4-year-old children. They must turn at least **four** years old by 30th April in the year they are attending a funded kindergarten program in a long day care centre, and:

- Are from a refugee or asylum seeker background (if the child holds or has a parent or guardian who holds a protection or humanitarian visa, ImmiCard, or exemption from the Department of Education and Training) **OR**
- Are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, **OR**
- Have had contact with Child Protection (a family or child who have a current, or a history of, involvement with Child Protection. This includes children in out-of-home care, children with a sibling who has been known to child protection, a child or family who has been referred by Child Protection to another support service, or any child where an unsubstantiated notification has been made to child protection) **OR**
- Have previously accessed the Access to Early Learning (AEL) program.

Applying for the grant

Service providers can visit the 'Knowledge' tab in KIM and view the reference guide: *How to Create and Submit an ESK Extension Funding Request* for instructions on how to complete an ESK Extension Grant funding request.

If the child is being submitted as part of annual confirmation, the KIM system will automatically create the ESK extension funding request when annual confirmation is approved. You can also access the ESK Extension grant after annual confirmation by saving the child record, clicking on the "generate funding" button, and creating an adjustment application for the child.

Further information

Children do not have to have previously accessed ESK to be eligible for the ESK Extension grant. The ESK Extension grant can be used in combination with CCS and ACCS.

Financial considerations and models

On the following pages are three program models and scenarios that include financial information.

They are based on an integrated kindergarten model as this would be the most beneficial model for a family accessing Early Start Kindergarten. They are also based on the child attending a 3-5 room, but as previously mentioned, the child could attend a 3–4-year-old room or a 4–5-year-old room as long as the same criteria are met.

In an integrated kindergarten program, children attend for a normal session of care (whether that is a 9, 10, 11 or 12 hours or other length of session). The ECT delivers the kindergarten program for a certain period during the day, the children access the program and the ECT for that part of the day and other educators for the remainder of the day. Depending on the number of hours your ECT is on the floor each day, the children will need to attend 2 or 3 days per week to accrue the necessary 15 hours per week.

As CCS is applied to these sessions, the ESK grant will generally cover the family's gap fee, enabling the child to attend 15 hours of kindergarten for free. The activity test will apply to families, so this needs to be considered when talking to families about attendance and cost.

Families may also choose to access other days apart from the days that they attend the kindergarten program, with LDC fees being charged as usual for all attendances. These children may also access the ECT on these other days, but this is simply an added benefit of being in LDC and there is no additional funding for the extra time spent with the ECT. Any remaining funds from the ESK grant can be put towards the fees if a family decided to attend any extra sessions (as well as any of the suggestions on page 13).

Programs at a glance

	MODEL 1 2 days per week 9-hour session	MODEL 2 AND 2A 3 days per week, 9-hour session
	ECT working with children	ECT working with children
Day 1	7.5 hours	5 hours
Day 2	7.5 hours	5 hours
Day 3	7.5 hours	5 hours
Day 4	7.5 hours	5 hours
Day 5	ECT planning (not on floor)	5 hours
ESK Grant	This amount is paid to the service as a lump sum and is used to cover the parent’s gap fees for the 15 hours of funded kindergarten. This is based on the actual parent fee with CCS applied.	
Per capita grant	This amount is included in the ESK grant amount.	
Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy	A service might offer 9-, 10-, 11- & 12-hour sessions. CCS will be applied to all hours that the child attends, including any additional days that the child attends outside of the kindergarten program hours.	
The different LDC session lengths can be offered to maximise a family’s childcare subsidy. For example, a family with 36 hours of CCS per fortnight may be better suited to accessing 2x 9-hour days, rather than 2 x 10- or 11-hour days.		

FINANCIAL MODELS

MODEL 1 -7.5 hours integrated program, with ESK

This model may suit families who are eligible for a minimum of 36 hours of CCS per fortnight.

Through a referral from Anglicare, Ned is eligible for Early Start Kindergarten, which gives him 15 hours a week of funded kindergarten at Marlo St Early Learning Centre.

The service is open from 6:30am – 6:30pm and offers 9-hour sessions, with the kindergarten program running from 8:30am-4:00pm, 4 days per week.

Ned is in the 3-5 room and attends the service 2 days per week. He accesses 15 hours of funded kindergarten and 18 hours of CCS per week. As the family is eligible for CCS and the ESK grant, there are no fees for them to pay.

SUMMARY – MODEL 1

Service daily fee:	\$110
Daily session length:	9 hours
Days attended per week:	2
Total weekly full fees:	\$220

FAMILY FEE CALCULATION

The table below shows the family's gap fees for this program based on 2 different income levels

	INCOME 1	INCOME 2
Family Income	\$97,000	\$58,000
Family CCS percentage	76%	85%
Weekly CCS contribution \$12.22 (hourly rate) x 9 x % x 2 (-5% withholding)	\$158.80	\$177.62
Weekly family gap fee (before ESK grant applied)	\$61.20	\$42.38
Weekly family gap fee (after ESK grant applied to kindergarten hours)	\$0	\$0

SERVICE PROVIDER REVENUE (ANNUAL PER CHILD)

	INCOME 1	INCOME 2
Fees (CCS contribution x 48 weeks)	\$7,622	\$8,525.76
ESK grant (\$5928)	\$5,928	\$5,928
Total annual revenue per child	\$13,550	\$14,453.76
Allocation of ESK grant		
Parent gap fees	\$2,448	\$1,695.20
ESK amount remaining (to be used in the kindergarten program)	(\$3,480)	(\$4,232.80)

Total revenue will vary depending on the gap fee for each family. Fees will be charged to the family for the whole year (in this case 48 weeks), however, the gap fees allocated for the family are for 40 weeks as this is the minimum requirement set by the Department. If there are enough funds available from the grant amount, you can apply it to 48 weeks if you choose.

The family fees in Model 1 have been worked out as follows:

- A family whose gap fee is \$61.20 will be charged \$2,448 for 40 weeks of the prescribed kindergarten year.*
- A family whose gap fee is \$42.38 will be charged \$1,695.20 for 40 weeks of the prescribed kindergarten year.*

This means that the grant will be put towards those charged fees. The other thing to take into account is that the remainder of the grant amount will need to be put towards any other parent fees (for the remainder of the year or extra days) as well as resources etc as outlined on page 12.

MODEL 2 – 5 hour integrated program, with ESK

This model requires families to be eligible for more than the 36 hours per week of CCS.

In this scenario, the kindergarten program is run for shorter days, over the whole week.

The service is open from 6:30am – 6:30pm and offers 9-hour sessions, with the kindergarten program running from 8:30am-1:30pm, 5 days per week.

Ned attends on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, accessing 15 hours of kindergarten.

The service uses the ESK grant (\$5928) to put towards the cost of the 15 hours of funded kindergarten, so he can attend at no cost.

SUMMARY – MODEL 2

Service daily fee:	\$110
Daily session length:	9 hours
Days attended per week:	3
Total weekly full fees:	\$330

FAMILY FEE CALCULATION

The table below shows the family's gap fees for this program based on 2 different income levels

	INCOME 1	INCOME 2
Family Income	\$97,000	\$58,000
Family CCS percentage	76%	85%
Weekly CCS contribution \$12.22 (hourly rate) x 9 x % x 3 (-5% withholding)	\$238.20	\$266.40
Weekly family gap fee total (before ESK grant applied)	\$91.80	\$63.60
Weekly family gap fee (after ESK grant applied to kindergarten hours)	\$0	\$0

SERVICE PROVIDER REVENUE (ANNUAL PER CHILD)

	INCOME 1	INCOME 2
Fees (CCS contribution x 48 weeks)	\$11,433.60	\$12,787.20
ESK grant (\$5928)	\$5,928	\$5,928
Total annual revenue per child	\$17,361.60	\$18,715.20
Allocation of ESK grant		
Parent gap fees	\$3,672	\$2544
ESK amount remaining (to be used in the kindergarten program)	(\$2,256)	(\$3,384)

This model requires children to attend for 3 days to access the 15 hours of funded kindergarten. This may not work if you have families with a lower CCS activity test threshold.

As with the previous model, the total revenue will vary depending on the gap fee for each family. Fees will be charged to the family for the whole year (in this case 48 weeks), however, the gap fees allocated for the family are for 40 weeks as this is the minimum requirement set by the Department. If there are enough funds available from the grant amount, you can apply it to 48 weeks if you choose.

The family fees for Model 2 have been worked out as follows:

- A family whose gap fee is \$91.80 will be charged \$3,672 for 40 weeks of the prescribed kindergarten year.*
- A family whose gap fee is \$63.60 will be charged \$2,544 for 40 weeks of the prescribed kindergarten year.*

This means that the grant will be put towards those charged fees. The other factor to take into account is that according to the funding requirements the remainder of the grant amount must also be put towards any other parent fees (for the remainder of the year or extra days) as well as resources etc as outlined on page 12.

MODEL 2A – 5 hour integrated program, with ESK and an extra day

This model requires families to be eligible for more than the 36 hours per week of CCS and gives an example of what the cost might be if a child attended an extra day outside the kindergarten program hours.

In this scenario, Ned attends on Monday to Thursday, accessing 15 hours of kindergarten and an extra 9-hour day.

The service is open from 6:30am – 6:30pm and offers 9-hour sessions, with the kindergarten program running from 8:30am-1:30pm, 5 days per week.

SUMMARY – MODEL 2A

Service daily fee:	\$110
Daily session length:	9 hours
Days attended per week:	4
Total weekly full fees:	\$440

FAMILY FEE CALCULATION

The table below shows the family's gap fees for this program based on 2 different income levels

	INCOME 1	INCOME 2
Family Income	\$97, 000	\$58, 000
Family CCS percentage	76%	85%
Weekly CCS contribution \$12.22 (hourly rate) x 9 x % x 4 (-5% withholding)	\$317.62	\$355.23
Kindergarten program fees (3 Days)	\$91.78	\$63.57
LDC daily fees (1 day)	\$30.59	\$21.19
Weekly family gap fee total (before ESK grant applied)	\$122.38	\$84.77
Weekly family gap fee (after ESK grant applied to kindergarten hours)	\$30.59	\$21.19
Weekly family gap fee (after ESK grant applied to all fees)	\$0	\$0

SERVICE PROVIDER REVENUE (ANNUAL PER CHILD)

	INCOME 1	INCOME 2
Fees (CCS contribution x 48 weeks)	\$15,245.76	\$17,051.04
ESK grant (\$5928) -	\$5,928	\$5,928
Total annual revenue	\$21,173.76	\$22,979.04
Allocation of ESK grant		
Parent gap fees total	\$5,874	\$4,068
ESK amount remaining (to be used in the kindergarten program)	(\$54)	(\$1,860)

This model also requires children to attend for 3 days to access the 15 hours of funded kindergarten. This in conjunction with an extra day, may not work if you have families with a lower CCS activity test threshold.

*However, this model this model could be particularly beneficial for vulnerable children and their families. In this example, a child can attend a long day care centre for **4 full days** (9 hours) at no cost to the family.*

*Depending on the gap fee, the service may be able to cover the gap fee for the kindergarten hours for the 40 weeks, **plus the remaining weeks of the year, plus the extra care.***

For example:

- A family whose gap fee is \$122.38 will be charged \$5,874 for 48 weeks of the year.*
- A family whose gap fee is \$84.77 will be charged \$4,068 for 48 weeks of the year.*

This means that the grant will be put towards those charged fees. This will not leave as much of the grant funds as the previous models, however, the main benefit will be the child's attendance at the service.

Conclusion

Early Start Kindergarten in long day care services can be extremely beneficial for eligible children and families and very rewarding for educators. It provides an excellent opportunity for service providers to work collaboratively with families, creating positive outcomes for children.

Service providers and educators need to ensure that they follow the Priority of Access guidelines to ensure that all families can access the kindergarten program and develop knowledge of the support services that are available to families, children and educators.

There is flexibility in the delivery of the program and from a financial point of view as any surplus funds can potentially be used to purchase resources directly related to the needs of the child or used to fund more days in the program.

For more information, please contact your Early Childhood Improvement branch (ECIB) in your [region](#).

Connecting you with Victoria's Early Childhood Education & Care sector.

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