

Kindergarten Information for 2011

Your child's funded year at kindergarten is a very important step in his/her developmental and educational progress so parents need to give consideration to their child's readiness to cope in the kindergarten setting.

Is your child:

- Keen to play with other children
- Eager to try new things
- Wanting to do things for themselves, such as dressing, toileting and feeding
- Able to follow a simple instruction
- Capable of completing a simple task
- Ready to listen to a story
- Looking for challenges
- Interested in the world around him/her
- Able to separate from family members
- Indicating an understanding of sharing and turn taking, even if he/she doesn't do this
- Happy in his/her own company for short periods of time



If you answer yes to any or all of these questions then now is the time to consider enrolling him/her for kindergarten in 2011.

In Victoria, kindergarten is a one year program for children in the year before they enter school. The Victorian State Government partially funds one year of kindergarten for each child, so it is important that parents choose the right year for their child to attend kindergarten.

Talk to the people who know your child (such as their fungroup leader or childcare worker) about their development and readiness for kinder. Your Maternal and Child Health nurse will also be able to conduct a 3½ year old check and advise you.

At the age of 3½ to 4 years, children are generally demonstrating noticeable changes in their growth and development. The Maternal and Child Health Service offers all families the opportunity to visit their health centre at this time. This visit is fun for children who enjoy participating in a range of different activities whilst at the centre. For parents it is an ideal opportunity to receive feedback about their child's growth and also their social development. A general physical assessment is completed which includes screening your child's vision. Parents are also able to discuss and receive information regarding a range of topics that are relevant at this time, such as immunisation,

behaviour issues and parenting, diet, dental care, encouraging development through play, safety and kindergarten and school readiness. Parents wishing to make an appointment for their child to attend their Maternal and Child Health nurse can do so by contacting the central booking number 5832 9312.

However, it is parents who have the ongoing knowledge of their child's development, skills and abilities, and it is the parent's choice when their child is ready to attend kindergarten (as long as their child is eligible).

The kindergarten program is based on the needs and interests of the children to support their development in all areas; social, emotional, cognitive, language and physical development. Your child will be encouraged to develop these skills through play.

The Greater Shepparton City Council coordinates kindergarten central enrolments for centres providing a kindergarten program in Greater Shepparton. There are currently 28 kindergarten programs offered with a variety of locations, programs and management structures. They establish their own programs, activities, fee structures etc., to reflect the needs of their community.

The various management arrangements for kindergarten programs include:

Greater Shepparton City Council Cluster Management

Operated from Council owned premises with voluntary committees of management responsible for day to day operations:

- Alexandra Street Kindergarten
- Colliver Road Children's Centre
- Dolena Young Preschool
- Dookie Preschool
- Echuca Road Kindergarten
- Gowrie Park Preschool
- Isabel Pearce Kindergarten
- Katandra West Early Childhood Centre
- Leslie Gribble Children's Centre
- Patricia Smith Children's Centre
- Rodney Neighbourhood Kindergarten – Steiner based program
- Tallygaroopna Preschool



Goulburn Region Preschool Association Cluster Management:

- Merrigum Preschool
- Murchison Preschool
- Toolamba Preschool
- Undera Preschool

Kindergarten programs within a long day care centre with childcare available in the same centre outside session times:

(please confirm fee structure with centre before making your decision)

- Arthur Dickmann Children's Centre - Greater Shepparton City Council Cluster Management, operated from Council owned premises
- Florina Preschool – privately owned long day care centre
- Kialla Children's Centre – community based committee of management, operated from Council owned premises
- Kiddie Care – privately owned long day care centre
- Tatura Children's Centre – community based committee of management, operated from Council owned premises
- Guthrie Street Child Care Centre - privately owned long day care centre
- Balaclava Road Child Care Centre - privately owned long day care centre

Independent committees of management

Responsible for all the staffing, financial and administrative management of the centre:

- Lulla's Children and Family Centre
- Save the Children Fund Kindergarten
- St Andrew's Kindergarten
- St Mel's Kindergarten

Primary School locations:

- Gowrie Street Preschool & Occasional Care



CITY OF GREATER SHEPPARTON

Kindergarten Central Enrolment Policy

Principle

The aim of this policy is to ensure the fair allocation of kindergarten places for those kindergartens participating in the City of Greater Shepparton Central Enrolment Scheme.

Guidelines

1. Children who will have their fourth birthday by 30 April in the year of attendance at a state funded kindergarten are eligible for enrolment.
2. Applications for the initial allocation of places close on 31 July of the year prior to the year of attendance at kindergarten.
3. Only enrolments made on the current Kindergarten Central Enrolment Form will be accepted. Parents should indicate their first choice of kindergarten.

Applications should be lodged at: Aged and Children's Services
Greater Shepparton City Council
Locked Bag 1000
Shepparton Vic 3632

Enrolment forms are only valid after being date stamped at the Council Office, 90 Welsford Street, Shepparton.

4. For all enrolments received by 31 July, kindergarten places will be allocated according to birth date with older children given preference.

Childcare Services Providing a State Funded Kindergarten Program

Where a childcare centre provides a state funded kindergarten program, children attending the centre of preference 2 or more full days per week shall be given priority of access to that centre's state funded kindergarten program.

Childcare centres providing a state funded kindergarten program will provide Council with a list of eligible children by 31 of July each year.

This priority does not apply to late applications or change of preference received after July 31.

5. Parents of children not allocated a place in their kindergarten of first preference will be notified by the Greater Shepparton City Council. At this time they will be notified of available places and given the option of accepting a place at available kindergartens, or putting their child's name on that kindergarten's waiting list. However, there is no guarantee of a place becoming available at that kindergarten. It is not possible to accept a place at a kindergarten and remain on the waiting list for another kindergarten.
6. Waiting lists which exist at the closing date will have placements allocated according to birthdates, kindergarten preference and available vacancies. Enrolments received after the closing date will be added to waiting lists in the order they are received.
7. Parents will be notified in writing by the kindergarten of placement by late September. If confirmation to accept the place is not received by the kindergarten by the notified date, the place will be offered to the next child on the kindergarten waiting list.
8. Where vacancies occur at a kindergarten, a place is offered to the first child on that kindergarten's waiting list.
9. Final acceptance of a child at any kindergarten is only given after proof-of-age has been provided (e.g. Birth Certificate, Maternal and Child Health Record).

10. A change of preference can only be made by submitting a "Change of Preference" form to the Central Enrolment Co-ordinator at Greater Shepparton City Council, Locked Bag 1000, Shepparton 3632. Change of Preference forms submitted after 31 July are considered under the same conditions as late enrolments. (Forms are available at the participating centres and the Council offices. They are only valid after being date stamped at the Council office and if an original enrolment has been completed and received at the Council).
11. Children transferring from areas outside the City of Greater Shepparton after 31 July are considered under the same conditions as late enrolments.
12. Due to the State Government Kindergarten Funding Guidelines, kindergartens are unable to guarantee more than one year of funded kindergarten, unless exceptional circumstances exist and PRIOR approval is granted by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. If after consultation with your child's kindergarten teacher a second year of funded kindergarten may be applied for a Central Enrolment form for the following year must be submitted prior to 31 July. If application for funding is not made or is declined the enrolment can be withdrawn.

Parents are encouraged to visit their preferred kindergarten to meet with the director and discuss relevant issues prior to enrolment.

Enquiries regarding the Central Enrolment Policy should be directed to:

Central Enrolment Co-ordinator
 Greater Shepparton City Council
 Telephone: 03 5832 9783

Greater Shepparton City Council complies with the Information Privacy Principle contained in the Information Privacy Act 2000 (Vic) and the Health Records Act 2001.

FUNDED PROGRAMS

Kindergarten programs are funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development using the following eligibility criteria:

- Children must have their fourth birthday by 30 April in the year of attendance at a funded kindergarten.
- The kindergarten program must be delivered in premises licensed under the Children's Services Act 1996 or its successors.
- The children's service providing the kindergarten program must comply with all of the licensing requirements outlined in the Children's Services Act 1996 and Children's Services Regulations 2009 or their successors.
- A trained teacher holding an approved early childhood qualification must be employed at the location of the kindergarten program.
- The teacher must plan the kindergarten program and deliver this program at the funded location.
- The kindergarten must offer each funded child a minimum of ten hours of kindergarten per week.
- The kindergarten must provide written confirmation to parents that their child is receiving a funded kindergarten program at the funded location.
- The organisation or kindergarten committee of management must sign and comply with a funding and service agreement.
- The organisation or kindergarten committee of management must have an Australian Business Number (provided through the Australian Taxation Office).



PARENTS NEED TO CHECK WITH THEIR PREFERRED CENTRES AS TO WHETHER A FUNDED PROGRAM IS BEING OFFERED FOR THE YEAR THEIR CHILD WILL ATTEND KINDERGARTEN

The kindergartens listed all comply with the Children's Services Regulations 2009 or their successors and are eligible for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Kindergarten Certificate and funding.

CITY OF GREATER SHEPPARTON KINDERGARTEN CENTRAL ENROLMENT FORM 2011



(PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS)

CHILD'S SURNAME:		
CHILD'S GIVEN NAME:		
DATE OF BIRTH: / /	Child's Sex: (Please Tick) <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
HOME ADDRESS:		
POST CODE:		Home Phone No:
Mother's Name:	Work Phone No:	Mobile No:
Father's Name:	Work Phone No:	Mobile No:

Child's Country of Birth: _____ Language spoken at home: _____

Is an interpreter required? Yes No

Is your child of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Origin? No – Not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
 Yes – Aboriginal
 Yes – Torres Strait Islander
 Yes – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Does your child have any special needs? Yes No *Details:* _____

Is your child currently receiving services from Specialist Children's Services/Scope/GV Health/
 Paediatrician/Early Childhood Intervention Services or other? Yes No

If yes, please provide details _____

Has your child had a 3½ year-old Maternal and Child Health Development Check? Yes No

Has your child previously attended a Government funded 4-year-old kindergarten program in Victoria?
 Yes No **If yes, please provide details** _____
(Kindergarten name and year/month of attendance):

Does your child currently attend a Long Day Care Service for 2 days or more per week?
 Yes No **If yes, please provide details** _____
(Long Day Care Centre name and days of attendance):

Are there any court orders relating to the powers and responsibilities of parents in relation to the child or
 access to the child? Yes No

APPLICATIONS: Applications to be returned by **31 July 2010** to:

Greater Shepparton City Council, 90 Welsford Street, Shepparton, 3630
 (postal address: Locked Bag 1000, Shepparton 3632)

NOTIFICATION: Each kindergarten will forward a letter of offer to parent/guardian by late September.
 If you have any queries please contact the Council's Kindergarten Central Enrolment Coordinator on 5832 9783.

***I acknowledge receipt of the Kindergarten Information Booklet including the Central Enrolment Policy.
 I agree to abide by the conditions and declare that the information provided by me is correct.***

Mother's Name:	Signed:	Date: / /
Father's Name:	Signed:	Date: / /

**This information will be treated according to Council's Privacy Policy.
 Please note: this form will be forwarded to your preferred centre for offer of placement.**

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR PREFERENCES

INDICATE THE KINDERGARTEN OF FIRST PREFERENCE.

All centres on this form may not provide a funded preschool program in 2011 (please check information leaflet - "Funded Programs")

Parents should indicate **one** preference by placing a tick against a centre where they are prepared to accept a kindergarten place.

We encourage families to visit centres to assist in choosing your kindergarten preference.

PREFERENCE:

MOOROOPNA

- Alexandra Street Kindergarten
23 Alexandra St
Phone 5825 2887
- Echuca Road Kindergarten
160 Echuca Road
Phone 5825 2698
- Rodney Neighbourhood Kindergarten
5 Echuca Road
Phone 5825 1200
- Save the Children Kindergarten
17 O'Brien Street
Phone 5825 2924

RURAL

- Dookie Children's Centre
30 Mary Street
Phone 5828 6377
- Isabel Pearce Kindergarten
506 Central Avenue
Shepparton East
Phone 5829 2369
- Katandra West Early Childhood Centre
33 Bankin Street
Phone 5828 3254
- Merrigum Preschool
145 Waverley Avenue
Phone 5855 2467
- Murchison Preschool
Watson Street
Phone 5826 2485

TATURA

- Gowrie Park Preschool
35 Hughes Street
Phone 5824 1602
- Tatura Children's Centre
5-9 Kerferd Street
Phone 5824 1415
- Tallygaroopna Children's Centre
33 Victoria Street
Phone 5829 8274
- Toolamba Kindergarten
Wren Street
Phone 5826 5320
- Undera Kindergarten
45 Anderson Street
Phone 5826 0211

SHEPPARTON NORTH

- Gowrie Street Preschool & Occasional Care
1-19 Gowrie Street
Phone 5821 9185
- Dolena Young Preschool
135 Balaclava Road
Phone 5821 3908
- Kiddie Care
122 Graham Street
Phone 5821 7511
- Patricia Smith Children's Centre
38 Packham Street
Phone 5821 6672
- Balaclava Road Child Care Centre
205 Balaclava Road
Phone 5821 0396

SHEPPARTON CENTRAL

- Arthur Dickmann Children's Centre
104 Maude Street
Phone 5821 3880
- Lulla's Children & Family Centre
42 Harold Street
Phone 5831 5489
- Florina Preschool
Cnr Hawdon and Knight Streets
Phone 5821 7806

SHEPPARTON SOUTH

- Colliver Road Children's Centre
21 Colliver Road
Phone 5821 5779
- Kialla Children's Centre
Reserve Street
Phone 5823 2746
- Leslie Gribble Children's Centre
11 Westmorland Cres
Phone 5821 3980
- St Andrew's Kindergarten
St Andrews Road
Phone 5821 5110
- St Mel's Kindergarten
200 Archer Street
Phone 5821 9982

- Guthrie Street Child Care Centre
52 Guthrie Street
Phone 5821 1711