

# EARLY YEARS SERVICES

## For parents and carers of children in the years before school

These services provide important support for children as they grow and develop. Use this table to guide what services and supports will be most suitable for your child based on their age.

- Services in yellow boxes: As of 2023, these services are free and available for all Victorian children.
- Services in blue boxes: Have some eligibility requirements. You may need a professional working with your child to refer you into this service. Speak to your case worker, maternal and child health nurse, local council or playgroup if you would like more support for your child's wellbeing or development.
- Childcare is available for children from 6 weeks of age and typically has some out-of-pocket costs. Centrelink subsidies can help to reduce the fees however eligibility criteria applies.

Service/Subsidy/Support	Birth-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years
<u>Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Service</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Playgroups</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Childcare (Child Care Subsidy &amp; Additional Child Care Subsidy).</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Inclusion Support Program</u> - support for children with additional needs at childcare	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Three-Year-Old Kindergarten</u>			Enrol	✓	
<u>Four-Year-Old Kindergarten</u>				Enrol	✓
<u>Koorie Engagement Support Officer (KESO)</u> - support for Koorie children and families to access a culturally safe kinder and school				✓	✓
<u>LOOKOUT</u> - support for children living in Out of Home Care to access kinder and school				✓	✓
<u>Kindergarten Inclusion Support (KIS)</u> - support for children with a disability or complex medical needs at kinder				✓	✓
<u>NDIS Early Childhood Approach</u> - support for children with a developmental delay or disability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓