



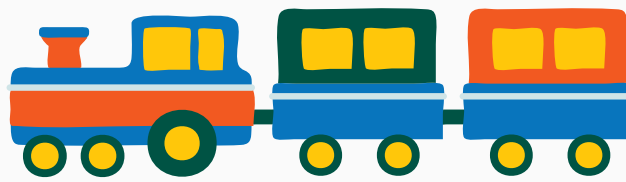
# ACCESSING EARLY YEARS SERVICES

For professionals working with children in the years before school

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Navigating the early years system can be challenging, and families often report feeling overwhelmed knowing which services are right for their children and when. The table over the page can be used to guide what services and supports will be most suitable for a child based on their age. Children have improved health, wellbeing and developmental outcomes when they have access to these supports before school.



## Table Interpretation

- 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 and are tailored to provide additional support for children from diverse backgrounds, with additional needs or experiencing vulnerability. A referral from a professional working with the family is typically required for access to these services.
  - Childcare typically incurs an out-of-pocket cost however Centrelink subsidies can help to reduce the overall fee for families.
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## Further resources to support your work with children in the years before school:

- The Centre's [Early Years Hub](#) hosts practice resources, training opportunities and information for professionals.
- [VACCA Cultural Hub](#) is a space that celebrates Aboriginal culture and is full of deadly activities and resources that are free to use with families.
- The [Victorian Aboriginal Education Association \(VAEAI\)](#) is the peak Koorie community organisation for education and training in Victoria and supports and advises services that provide early childhood education for Koorie children.
- [Association for Children with a Disability](#) – provides free advocacy, support and information for families of children with a disability and the professionals that support them.
- [Foundation House](#) provides advocacy, support and information for families and children from a refugee or asylum seeker background and the professionals that support them.



# ACCESSING EARLY YEARS SERVICES

For professionals working with children in the years before school

As of 2023, services in yellow boxes are free. Services in blue boxes have some eligibility requirements. More information over the page.

Service/Subsidy/Support	Birth-1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years
<u>Maternal and Child Health (MCH)</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Enhanced MCH</u>	✓	✓	✓		
<u>Playgroups</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Supported Playgroups</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Childcare (CCS &amp; ACCS)</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Inclusion Support Program</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Three-Year-Old Kindergarten</u>			Enrol	✓	
<u>Four-Year-Old Kindergarten</u>				Enrol	✓
<u>Koorie Engagement Support Officer (KESO)</u>				✓	✓
<u>Early Start Kindergarten (ESK)</u>			Enrol	✓	✓
<u>Access to Early Learning (AEL)</u>			Refer	✓	
<u>Kindergarten Inclusion Support (KIS)</u>				✓	✓
<u>Early Childhood LOOKOUT</u>				✓	✓
<u>NDIS Early Childhood Approach</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

