

Children and Families Information Booklet 2026



Acknowledgement

We recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.

Services and Programs for children and families

Maternal and Child Health Service

✉ MCH@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Immunisation Program

✉ immunisation@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Playgroups

✉ playgroups@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Family Day Care Program

✉ familydaycare@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Kindergarten Central

Application Scheme

✉ keo@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Outreach Program

✉ FET@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Training and Education Program

✉ familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

City of Whittlesea Youth Service

✉ youth@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Yarra Plenty Regional Library

✉ ypmail@yppl.vic.gov.au

City of Whittlesea

☎ 9217 2170

🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au

✉ eysiadminsupport@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

The City of Whittlesea has maintained a long-held commitment to children and families in our community, by providing information on services and programs available within the municipality.

Contents

Maternal and Child Health Service	02
Playgroups	03
Immunisation	04
Book an immunisation appointment	05
Immunisation timetable 2026	06
Whittlesea Family Day Care	08
Family Engagement Team	09
Raising Children and Young People Program	10
City of Whittlesea Youth Service	11
Yarra Plenty Regional Library – Whittlesea Branches	12
Swimming pools and leisure centres	13
Kindergarten	14
Why is kindergarten important?	15
Kindergarten Application Scheme - Key dates for 2026	16
Eligibility for kindergarten	17
How to apply for kindergarten	18
Confirmation of placement	20
Waiting list	20
Application changes	21
Kindergarten Programs – City of Whittlesea	22
Aboriginal children and their families	24
Kindergarten programs in Long Day Care Centres	24
Early Start Kindergarten	25
Pre-prep starting in 2026	25
Second year of 3 or 4 year old kindergarten	26
Your involvement	26
Annual Kindergarten Open Event	26
Children with additional needs	27
Privacy Policy	27
Preschool Dental Service	28
Early years e-news	28

Maternal and Child Health Service

The Maternal and Child Health Service (MCH) is free for families living in the City of Whittlesea who have children aged newborn to school age.

Our multidisciplinary team includes Maternal and Child Health Nurses, Lactation Consultants and Early Childhood Professionals.

Appointments are offered where we consult on family health and wellbeing, child growth and development.

Our staff can provide parenting support and referral to other services. Additionally your child's immunisation status will be monitored to ensure it is up-to-date.

Initially, a home visit is booked upon discharge from hospital followed by visits to a MCH Centre to follow up on your child's key age and developmental stages at the ages of:

- 2 weeks
- 4 weeks
- 8 weeks
- 4 months
- 8 months
- 12 months
- 18 months
- 2 years
- 3.5 years

It's recommended your child completes their 3.5 year assessment prior to commencing 4 year old kindergarten.

Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Service (EMCH)

The Enhanced MCH service provides additional outreach support to families experiencing significant early parenting difficulties.

The EMCH service partners with families to set goals that improves outcomes for the parent and child. Eligibility criteria is assessed and a referral is required.

Drop in services

No appointment required

- **Open Consultation Sessions**
Drop in for further review in between your child's scheduled key age and stage visits
- **Breast Feeding Support**
Consult with us for further support around breastfeeding and bottle feeding difficulties.

Parenting programs

Many free programs are offered such as First Time Parent Groups, Sleep & Settling sessions and Food Information sessions. They are facilitated by health professionals and are adapted to suit the needs of families to further support their parenting roles.

Deadly Boorais Deadly Families MCH Program at City of Whittlesea

Deadly Boorais Deadly Families (DBDF) is a Universal Maternal and Child health service for families that identify as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander.

The aim of the program is to support better access and engagement to the MCH program services through improved cultural safety, continuity of care and flexible options for service delivery.

The DBDF team consists of MCH Nurses and an Aboriginal engagement worker. Together they can provide the MCH key age health checks, advice and support.

Options for engagement are with a phone call, planned home visits or at the drop-in session every Tuesday at Bubup Wilam in Thomastown. Please contact the team for more information or to talk about your needs.

Playgroups

Playgroups provide an opportunity for parents and carers to come together in a local space with their babies, toddlers and preschool age children.

It is a chance to assist children to learn through play, and connect with other families and services within the local community.

The City of Whittlesea Playgroup team can provide advice and support on:

- finding and joining a local playgroup
- starting a new playgroup
- planning and running a playgroup
- accessing Council's Supported Playgroup Program
- joining the online Whittlesea Playgroup Network.

For information about local playgroups:

📞 9217 2170

🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/playgroups

✉️ playgroups@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Pop up Playgroups will be advertised on the City of Whittlesea website.



Learn about our services

📞 9217 2170

✉️ mch@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Scan the QR code for more information about playgroups

Immunisation

Immunisation is important to protect your children from preventable diseases. Vaccinations for the pre-school immunisation program commence at 6 weeks of age, and conclude at 4 years of age.

Under the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation, when enrolling your child into an early year service, you are required to provide evidence that your child is:

- fully immunised for their age, or
- is on a vaccination catch-up program, or
- is unable to be fully immunised for medical reasons.

Free sessions

We provide free, appointment-only immunisation sessions for the public in line with the National Immunisation Program.

The free sessions are available for:

- babies, toddlers and young children
- secondary school students
- individuals under 20 years of age who require catch-up immunisations
- pregnant women
- medically at risk and other vulnerable people.

This evidence must be provided directly to your child's kindergarten or child care service to confirm their enrolment. Council does not require this evidence to be submitted with your kindergarten application.

Contact Council's immunisation service on:

📞 **9217 2170**

✉️ **immunisation@whittlesea.vic.gov.au**

For more information visit the website:

🌐 **whittlesea.vic.gov.au/immunisation**



Scan the QR code for more information about Public immunisation sessions

How to book an immunisation appointment

1 Access Vitavo, our online immunisation platform



2 Check availability

Select by date or by venue. You can view our immunisation timetable on following page.

3 Sign in or register your account

The first time you use Vitavo you are required to register an account using an email address.

A Verification code will be sent to your email to complete the set up.

4 Setup your profile

Your personal profile needs to be completed before setting up the profile for any dependents.

Select 'Receiving a vaccine' if the vaccination is for yourself or 'Giving consent for someone else to receive a vaccine' for a dependent. Enter your personal details and 'Save'.

A Verification code will be sent to your email to complete the set up.

5 Select the person to be immunised

Select who you are booking an appointment for if required as well as any medical conditions relevant.

Select the immunisation you are booking in for (For example: 4 months, 12 months etc).

You can select additional immunisations as part of the step.

6 Confirm consent

Please ensure you read the Immunisation schedule, pre-immunisation information and side effect fact sheet prior to confirming your consent.

7 To book an appointment

Book a venue, date and time that is suitable.

You will receive an email confirmation of your appointment which allows you to manage any changes you wish to make.

Once this profile is completed, future bookings are made simply by logging onto your personal profile.

Immunisation timetable 2026

Venues and times

Please do not attend any earlier than the stated schedule.

The current schedule is:

- 6 weeks • 4 months • 6 months • 12 months • 18 months; and • 4 years.

N/S (No Session) PH (Public Holiday)

VENUE		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
DAY SESSIONS													
DONNYBROOK murnong Community Centre – 183 Olivine Boulevard, Donnybrook	Friday, 10am – 12pm	N/S	6	6	PH (3)	1	5	3	7	4	2	6	4
EPPING Galada Community Centre – 10A Forum Way, Epping	Friday, 10am – 12pm	9	13	13	10	8	12	10	14	11	9	13	11
SOUTH MORANG Civic Centre South Morang – Fountain View Room, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang	Saturday, 10am – 12pm	10	14	14	11	9	13	11	8	12	10	14	12
MERENDA VILLAGE Mernda Community Activity Centre – 70 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda	Monday, 12.30pm – 2.30pm	19	16	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	19	16	21
THOMASTOWN Thomastown Library – 52 Main Street, Thomastown <i>*Note: April sessions will be held at the library January-March sessions will be held at TRAC</i>	Friday, 10am – 12pm	—	—	—	24	22	26	24	28	PH (25)	23	27	PH (25)
THOMASTOWN Thomastown Recreation & Aquatic Centre (TRAC) – 52-54 Main Street, Thomastown	Friday, 10am – 12pm	23	27	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MILL PARK Mill Park Leisure – 33 Morang Drive, South Morang	Wednesday, 12.30pm – 2.30pm	28	25	25	29	27	24	29	26	30	28	25	N/S (30)
EVENING SESSIONS													
EPPING Galada Community Centre – 10A Forum Way, Epping	Tuesday, 5pm – 7pm	6	3	3	6	5	2	7	4	1	6	PH (3)	1
MERENDA VILLAGES Mernda Community Activity Centre – 70 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda	Wednesday, 5pm – 7pm	7	4	4	1	6	3	1	5	2	7	4	2
THOMASTOWN Thomastown Library – 52 Main Street, Thomastown	Tuesday, 5pm – 7pm	13	10	10	14	12	9	14	11	8	13	10	8
WOLLERT Kirrip Community Centre – 135 De Rosi Boulevard, Wollert	Wednesday, 5pm – 7pm	21	18	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	21	18	16

Timetables and locations are subject to change, visit [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/immunisation](https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/immunisation) to view the most recent timetable.

Whittlesea Family Day Care

Whittlesea Family Day Care is a registered service providing home based childcare for a small group of children, aged from 6 weeks to 12 years old. It is approved by the Australian Government and eligible for child care subsidy. It is also licensed by state governments.

The service provides flexible hours and small groups with planned programs focused on helping children develop a sense of confidence, connect with their community and develop social skills.

Family Day Care offers:

- full-time and part-time care
- outside school hours care
- school holiday care
- respite care.



Family Day Care educators are qualified early childhood education and care professionals.

All educators:

- have experience working in the sector
- provide a safe, hygienic, secure and smoke-free childcare environment
- hold a current first aid certificate, anaphylaxis and asthma training
- undertake a National Police Record Check and Working with Children Check
- provide developmentally appropriate programs for children
- represent the cultural diversity of the local community
- sub-contract to Council under an Educator Agreement.

Family Day Care educators are supported by Council's Coordination Unit, who are responsible for approving, supporting, training and monitoring educators.



Family Engagement Team

The Family Engagement Team is available to assist families in completing registration and enrolment forms for long day care and kindergarten, help identify and overcome barriers in accessing early childhood services and access family support services and programs.

Services Provided by the Family Engagement Team

Registration and Enrolment Support:

Direct assistance with filling out necessary documentation for early childhood education programs.

Identifying Barriers:

Helping families and education services to recognise obstacles that may hinder access to services.

Support Services:

Guidance on connecting with various support services, including:

- Maternal Child Health
- Immunisation
- family support services
- material aid and financial counselling
- family violence services
- parent education/resources
- library story times
- community and supported playgroups.

Multicultural Support

The Multicultural Family Engagement Facilitators assist families from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds by providing translation help and support for those who speak a language other than English in completing registration documents for kindergarten, childcare, or primary school foundation year.



For more information:

- 📞 9217 2170
- 🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/services
- ✉ fet@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



For more information about becoming a Family Day Care Educator or to enrol your child into one of our programs, scan the QR code or contact the Coordination Unit:

- 📞 9217 2170
- 🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/familydaycare
- ✉ familydaycare@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Raising Children and Young People Program

City of Whittlesea's Raising Children and Young People program is dedicated to supporting families, children and young people to build a child friendly city and community.

The program offers many topics and events to support parenting including:

- Pop ups at local shopping centres and libraries
- Bringing Up Kids expo's
- Toilet training
- Bringing up great kids
- Circle of security
- Tuning in to teens.

You can easily book a place by using the link provided for each session. We look forward to seeing you at sessions and events in 2026. For more information please contact the Education and Engagement Facilitator on:

- 📞 **9217 2170**
- 🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/familytraining
- ✉️ familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



ALL sessions and events are FREE to families.

Scan the QR code for more information about this program

City of Whittlesea Youth Service

You can find us at:

**EDGE Youth Services, Shop MM1,
Westfield Plenty Valley
415 McDonalds Road, Mill Park**

City of Whittlesea Youth Services provides programs, support, and opportunities for young people aged 8–25 who live, work, study, or spend time in our community.

Our Youth Workers deliver a wide range of activities in schools, libraries, community centres, and youth spaces, as well as free and low-cost events during every school holiday period. In 2025, we've expanded to include children in the Middle Years (8–12), alongside ongoing programs for young people up to 25.

We value and empower young people by supporting wellbeing, leadership, and connection. A key part of this is our Youth Council, a formal advisory group of young people aged 12–22 who represent the voice of young people across our municipality.



Scan the QR code for more information about this program

Whether it's developing skills, meeting new people, or having a say on local issues, City of Whittlesea Youth Services is here for young people and families.

- 📞 **9217 2170**
- 🌐 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/youth
- ✉️ youth@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
- 📘 facebook.com/cityofwhittlesea
- 📷 [@cityofwhittleseayouth](https://instagram.com/cityofwhittleseayouth)



Yarra Plenty Regional Library Whittlesea Branches

The library offers Baby, Toddler, Bedtime, Preschool, Bilingual, Relaxed, and Weekend Storytimes.

Lalor Library

2A May Road, Lalor
☎ **9465 2353**

Mernda Library

180 Riverdale Boulevard, Mernda
☎ **9117 6116**

Mill Park Library

394 Plenty Road, Mill Park
☎ **9437 8189**

Thomastown Library

52 Main Street, Thomastown
☎ **9464 1864**

Whittlesea Library

57-61 Laurel Street, Whittlesea
☎ **9716 3028**

Galada Click & Collect Hub

10A Forum Way, Epping
☎ **9464 1864**

Kirrip Hub Click & Collect Hub

135 De Rossi Boulevard, Wollert
☎ **03 9437 8189**

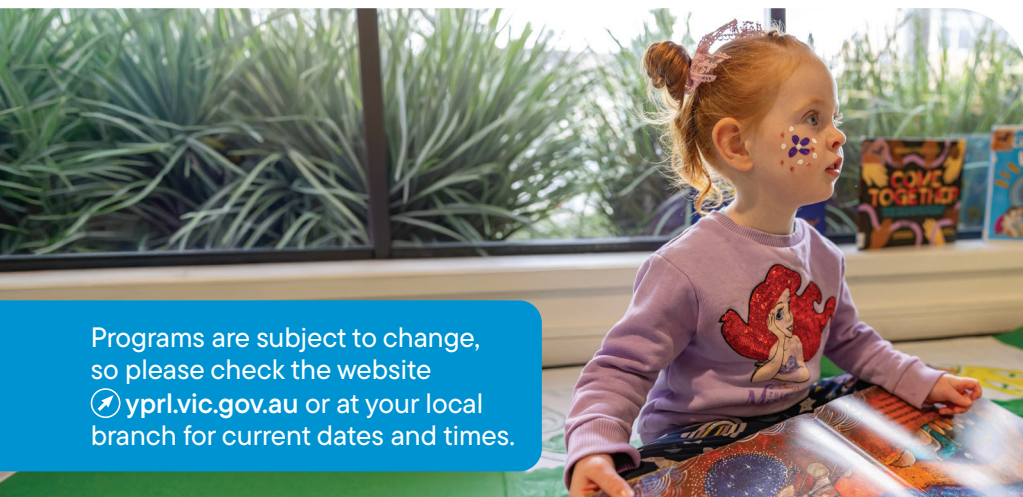
murnong Library

34 Exhibition Way, Donnybrook
(entrance is corner of Exhibition Way
and Eucalyptus Parade)

Mobile Library

Various locations, visit

📍 [yprl.vic.gov.au/locations/
mobile-library](https://yprl.vic.gov.au/locations/mobile-library)
☎ **0419 883 159**



Programs are subject to change,
so please check the website
📍 yprl.vic.gov.au or at your local
branch for current dates and times.

Swimming pools and leisure centres

City of Whittlesea local pools and leisure centres offer something for everyone to assist with commencing or enhancing their health and wellbeing journey. The inclusive spaces offer learn-to-swim (from infants to adults), casual swimming, health club access, group fitness, spa and sauna facilities and outdoor play area.

Water safety is a skill for life and learn to swim classes are a fun way to build confidence and be safe both in and around water.

Lessons are available for:

- infants with their parents – children aged 6 months to 3 years
- pre-schoolers – children aged 3- 5 years
- primary school aged children – children aged 5 years and above
- development Squad
- adult swimming lessons.

Mill Park Leisure Centre

33 Morang Drive, Mill Park

☎ **03 8432 7600**

📍 millparkleisure.com.au

*24/7 access gym available
at MPL only

Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre

52-54 Main Street, Thomastown

☎ **03 9463 0700**

📍 trac.com.au

Whittlesea Swim Centre

50 Walnut Street, Whittlesea

☎ **03 9716 2137**

📍 whittleseaswimcentre.com.au



Kindergarten

Two years of kindergarten for FREE!

Every child deserves the best start in life, and the City of Whittlesea is committed to providing just that. All children enrolled in a kindergarten program at a participating service are eligible for free kindergarten.

Free Kindergarten supports families to access a kindergarten program by:

- providing a free 5-to-15-hour program to three-year-old children (subject to the length of program offered)
- providing a free 15-hour program to four-year-old children enrolled and additional hours to children eligible for Pre-prep, see page 25 for details
- offsetting the funded kindergarten program component of parent fees for three and four-year-old children enrolled at a long day care service.

To explore the available timetables and programs, visit the Council's website for more information.

Department of Education will make free kinder payments to participating service providers, not directly to families.

Interactions with Commonwealth Childcare Subsidy (CCS)

To maximise the financial benefits for families, long day care service providers will be required to apply the free kinder offset to each families' fees after CCS has been applied.

Free kinder is for everyone

You don't need to be a permanent resident or Australian citizen to access a free kindergarten program. For more information visit

 vic.gov.au/free-kinder



Why is kindergarten important?

Through play, kindergarten provides a range of learning opportunities for children including:

- gaining independence by making choices and doing things for themselves, engaging with adults and children for help and decision making
- learning about language through talking, listening, singing, sharing stories and books
- learning about socialising and how to get along with others through sharing equipment and playing and negotiating with other children
- learning about numbers and number concepts by doing puzzles, building with blocks and through singing games.

The teachers plan educational programs to meet children's needs and interests, and help to develop children's desire to learn, explore language, experiment and socialise.

Parents are acknowledged as children's first and most influential teachers. Kindertartens recognise this and encourage parents to be involved in their child's education by helping out during sessions, sharing skills, volunteering for working bees, fundraising and being involved in the management group.

To find out more you are encouraged to contact the kindergarten/s you are interested in.

Long day care within the municipality also provide kindergarten programs. You may apply directly to the service, see website for contact details:

 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/childcare

Kindergarten is an educational program provided by qualified early childhood teachers and educators as per the National Quality Framework (NQF).



City of Whittlesea

Kindergarten Application Scheme

Key dates for 2026

Date	Important information	What happens next
1 February 2026	Applications open: 1 year prior to 3 year old attendance (3 yr old kindergarten in 2027) 2 years prior to 4 year old attendance (4 yr old kindergarten in 2028)	Whittlesea accepts applications online, by email, in person and via post. An acknowledgment of your application will be sent by email or post within 2-8 weeks.
30 June 2026	Kindergarten applications received by 30 June will be included in the first round offers for 2027.	Applications received after this date will be included in the second or subsequent round of offers.
July 2026	Round 1 offers for 2027 Kindergarten will be sent to families.	Offers will be sent via email. If an email address is not provided, parents will be contacted by phone and/or mail.
August 2026	Round 2 offers for 2027 Kindergarten will be sent to families.	
September 2026	Round 3 offers for 2027 Kindergarten will be sent to families.	
October 2026	Offers are made weekly and continue as new applications are received.	Applications for 2026 do not close until 13 November 2026.
From October 2026 onwards	Families will receive information from their accepted Kindergarten directly such as enrolment requirements, commencement procedures and session times.	Please make sure you keep your details up to date. If you require assistance, please contact the Kindergarten team via:  keo@whittlesea.vic.gov.au  9217 2170.

Eligibility for kindergarten

Three-year-old kindergarten

Children must turn three by 30 April in the year of attendance.

Four-year-old kindergarten

Children must turn four by 30 April in the year of attendance.

Under the funding provided to kindergartens by the State Government all children are eligible for 1 year of funded 3 year old kindergarten and 1 year of 4 year old kindergarten.

Some children are eligible for a second year of funded kindergarten. This second year is only available once, either for 3 year-old kindergarten or for 4 year-old kindergarten this will be approved by your child's kindergarten teacher.

Parents/guardians need to consider the best time for their child to start kindergarten. Children reach developmental milestones at slightly different ages.

Families with children born between January and April can choose which year to start 3 year-old kindergarten. These children can start in the same year they turn three, or in the year they turn four years of age.

If you are unsure when your child will be ready to start kindergarten, talk to others who know your child and whose judgement you trust. This could include your local Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Nurse.

To establish which year your child is eligible to attend kindergarten and when applications open for that year, please refer to the table below.

Due to staffing requirements, some services may ask that children start attending kindergarten only after their third birthday. This may mean that some children may not start attending their kindergarten program until part-way into Term 1.

Date of birth range	Attend 3 year old kindergarten	Attend 4 year old kindergarten	Applications Open
1 May 2021 – 30 April 2022	N/A	2026	Now open
1 May 2022 – 30 April 2023	2026	2027	Now open
1 May 2023 – 30 April 2024	2027	2028	1 February 2026
1 May 2024 – 30 April 2025	2028	2029	1 February 2027



How to apply for kindergarten

It's free to apply for kindergarten

Step 1

To submit an application, you need to:

Apply online via Parent Web

Portal on Council's website:

 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/kinder



Scan the
QR code to
apply online

Or a **kindergarten form** can be obtained from:

-  whittlesea.vic.gov.au/kinder
- Kindergartens
- Maternal and Child Health Centres
- **Council Offices**
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang
8.30am-5pm (Mon -Fri)
- **Whittlesea Services Hub**
63 Church Street, Whittlesea
9.30am - 5pm (Mon -Fri)

Step 2

Fill in the personal details and nominate up to three kindergartens in order of preference.

Step 3

Attach the following documents to the application:

- **proof of child's birth**
(eg. A copy of birth certificate/ passport or Immunisation History Statement)
- **proof of Parent's Address**
(eg. copy of current driver's licence, or utility bill). Non-residents may choose to provide proof of primary childcare/education or employment within the municipality to prove connection to Council

Non-residents without a link to Council are welcome to apply
- **a copy of a Health Care Card/** eligible Concession/Refugee or Asylum Seeker visa etc (if applicable).

If you include a valid concession, your child may be eligible for additional hours as part of Pre-prep in their 4 year old kindergarten year. See page 25 for details.

FREE TO APPLY FOR ALL FAMILIES From 1 February 2024 there is no cost to apply for kindergarten.

* Subject to change

Step 4

Submit your application:



Online

 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/kinder



Email

 keo@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Mail

Kindergarten Team
City of Whittlesea, Locked Bag 1
Bundoora, MDC 3083



In Person

Council Offices

25 Ferres Boulevard,
South Morang
8.30am-5pm (Mon -Fri)

Whittlesea Services Hub

63 Church Street, Whittlesea
9.30am - 5pm (Mon -Fri)

Kinder is free for all children

It's FREE to apply for kindergarten and FREE to attend too.



Confirmation of placement

Kindergarten placement offers will be made via email or mail, starting in the months of July and August in the year before your child is due to attend. These offers are made based on priority of access criteria set by Department of Education and then date of application.

If too many people apply for a particular kindergarten, we may need to consider your second or third preference when making offers.

If no offer can be made for any of the selected preferences a waiting list letter will be sent advising you of your options.

Waiting list

If there are no places available at any of your chosen preferences, you will have the option of considering a placement at another kindergarten or to be placed on a waiting list.

If you decline a kindergarten placement offer, you can choose to go onto a waiting list at a kindergarten of your choice.

Council will contact you in writing when a vacancy arises and are able to make an offer for one of your preferences. It is important to note that we cannot guarantee that a vacancy will arise at any of your nominated preferences.

Please note that if you accept an offer at a kindergarten your child cannot remain on a waiting list at a different kindergarten.

Application changes

Change of preferences, address or contact details

A parent web portal is available on [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/kinder](https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/kinder) to view, apply and modify the status of your application or to change your kindergarten preferences.

To log in, use your child's first given name, surname, date of birth as well as your application ID. The first letter you receive from us will include your application ID.

If you don't have your application ID or if you want to change your contact details, email your request to

keo@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Note: Any changes to your application will not affect your original application date.

Deferral from kindergarten

Deferring refers to the process where a child's original kindergarten application is postponed until the following year on the grounds that the child may not be ready for kindergarten.

An application may only be deferred before the child starts attending a 3 or 4 year old kindergarten program.

Deferment may be a suitable option for children whose skills and developmental level will improve with time, experience and the normal maturation process. An Early Childhood Educator or MCH nurse can assist in informing parents/guardians about a child's development.

Deferments can be submitted online or by emailing the details to

keo@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Kindergarten Programs

BUNDOORA 3083

Edward Street Preschool
1a Edward Street, Bundoora
☎ 0458 390 087

McLeans Road Kindergarten
151 McLeans Road,
Bundoora
☎ 8467 5600

DONNYBROOK 3064

Eucalyptus Parade Kindergarten
38 Eucalyptus Parade,
Donnybrook
☎ 8408 6762

murnong Kindergarten
34 Exhibition Way,
Donnybrook
☎ 0400 919 510

DOREEN 3754

Butterflies Childcare and Early Learning Centre
(*Free Kinder offset,
fees may apply)
2-4 Orchard Road, Doreen
☎ 9717 2939
20 Mulwala Drive, Doreen
☎ 8775 1370

Hazel Glen Kindergarten
65 Eminence Boulevard,
Doreen
☎ 9717 7565

Laurimar Kindergarten
110 Hazel Glen Drive,
Doreen
☎ 9717 8056

Orchard Road Kindergarten
121 Orchard Road, Doreen
☎ 1300 153 332

EPHING 3076

Derby Meadows Preschool
(closing for redevelopment
2026/2027)
17 Winchester Avenue,
Epping
☎ 9401 5426

Epping North YMCA Early Learning Centre
(*Free Kinder offset,
fees may apply)
355 Harvest Home Road,
Epping
☎ 8371 0520

Epping Preschool
849 High Street, Epping
☎ 9401 1206

Epping North Preschool
378 Findon Road, Epping
☎ 9408 8000

Epping Views Kindergarten
15 Lyndarum Drive, Epping
☎ 8405 3227

Galada Kindergarten
10A Forum Way, Epping
☎ 8457 0840

Greenbrook Kindergarten
31 Lowalde Drive, Epping
☎ 9401 3083

Meadowglen Primary School Kindergarten
3 Pommel Crescent, Epping
☎ 9474 4861

Oakbrook Kindergarten
36 Holroyd Drive, Epping
☎ 9401 1695

LALOR 3075

Jacaranda Preschool – Kingsway Drive
90 Kingsway Drive, Lalor
☎ 9465 1993

Jacaranda Preschool – Nebel Street
34 Nebel Street, Lalor
☎ 9464 4723

Lalor East Preschool
186 Darebin Drive, Lalor
☎ 9465 7564

Lalor Primary School Kindergarten
28 Maxwell Street, Lalor
☎ 9450 0986

Vasey Park Preschool
15 Vasey Avenue, Lalor
☎ 9465 8835

MERENDA 3754

Jindi Kindergarten and Extended Care
48 Breadalbane Avenue,
Mernda
☎ 9717 0414

Mernda South Kindergarten
2 Goulburn Street, Mernda
☎ 8371 0570

Mernda Villages Kindergarten
70 Mernda Village Drive,
Mernda
☎ 9717 6066

MILL PARK 3082

Blossom Park Kindergarten
59 Azalea Avenue, Mill Park
☎ 9404 4787

Centenary Drive Kindergarten
68 Centenary Drive, Mill Park
☎ 9436 7671

Collard Family Kindergarten
(*Free Kinder offset,
fees may apply)
3 Development Boulevard,
Mill Park
☎ 9115 0787

Kool Kidz Mill Park
(*Free Kinder offset,
fees may apply)
49 Oleander Drive, Mill Park
☎ 8418 0703

Mill Park Preschool
Rear 7 Mill Park Drive,
Mill Park
☎ 9404 2623

Roycroft Kindergarten
114 Roycroft Avenue,
Mill Park
☎ 9404 4369

Stables Kindergarten
(temp location for 2026)
152 Mill Park Drive, Mill Park
☎ 9404 1419

The Heights Kindergarten
31 Morang Drive, Mill Park
☎ 9436 7744

SOUTH MORANG 3752

Mill Park Lakes Preschool
280A Gordons Road,
South Morang
☎ 9437 9412

South Morang Preschool – Reid Street
75 Reid Street, South Morang
☎ 9404 1855

South Morang Preschool – Riverside
8 Doreen Rogen Way,
South Morang
☎ 9436 6398

The Lakes South Morang College Kindergarten
(planned to open in 2026)
275 Gordons Road,
South Morang

THOMASTOWN 3074

Barry Road Preschool
32 Barry Road, Thomastown
☎ 9465 0043

Dalton Road Kindergarten
(closing for redevelopment
2026/2027)
145A Dalton Road,
Thomastown
☎ 9465 4940

Harbard Street Kindergarten
1 Gladstone Street,
Thomastown
☎ 9465 8693

Spring Street Kindergarten
16 Spring Street,
Thomastown
☎ 9465 2092

Thomastown West Kindergarten
127 Edgars Road,
Thomastown
☎ 9465 4923

WHITTLESEA 3757
Sparkways Whittlesea Children's Centre – Laurel St Preschool
57-61 Laurel Street,
Whittlesea
☎ 9716 2153

Whittlesea Preschool
92 Church Street, Whittlesea
☎ 9716 2405

WOLLERT 3750

Barrawang Primary School Kindergarten
1 Islington Street, Wollert
☎ 9474 4862

Early Learning Victoria Umarkoo Wollert
(*Free Kinder offset,
fees may apply)
28 Ellesmere Boulevard,
Wollert
☎ 9057 4444

Ganbu Gulinj Kindergarten
55 Macedon Parade, Wollert
☎ 9407 7200

Kirrip Kindergarten
135 De Rossi Boulevard,
Wollert
☎ 8408 6760

Korin Korin Kindergarten
20 Champions Parade,
Wollert
☎ 9409 1723

wirrigirri Kindergarten
120 Saltlake Boulevard,
Wollert

West Wollert (interim name)
(planned to open 2027)
63 Jardin Road, Wollert

Aboriginal children and their families

Bubup Wilam Aboriginal Child and Family Centre is a thriving Aboriginal family-based early childhood centre offering education and care programs (including kindergarten).

The Centre's focus in partnership with families, is to create strong foundations for lifelong learning, health and wellbeing for Aboriginal children. Bubup Wilam emphasises the child's cultural, emotional and educational rights and needs in a culturally rich and supportive environment.

Bubup Wilam Aboriginal Child and Family Centre is located at 76 Main Street, Thomastown.

Contact us to enrol your child or for more information.

 bubupwilam.org.au
 8459 4800



Kindergarten programs in Long Day Care Centres

A kindergarten program can take place in a long day care centre.

Long day care centre with a funded kindergarten program will display a kindergarten certificate and have a qualified early childhood teacher.

To apply for a placement in a long day care centre contact the centre directly. Some centres are included on Council's central application system for kindergarten programs only.

Families with children enrolled in a participating long day care centre receive an annual fee offset for the kindergarten program, some fees may apply.

If you would like a full list of long day care centre that offer a kindergarten program visit Council's website:

 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/childcare

Early Start Kindergarten

Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) provides eligible children with 15 hours of free kindergarten per week in their 3 year old kindergarten year.

To be eligible, your child must be three by 30 April in the year they start kindergarten and:

- child is from a refugee or asylum seeker background, or
- identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or
- your family has been supported by Child Protection or referred by The Orange Door (for parenting support).

Apply for ESK by submitting a standard kindergarten application form and selecting the eligibility that applies to the child.

For more information contact Council's Kindergarten team or visit Early Start Kindergarten

 education.vic.gov.au

Pre-prep starting in 2026

4 year-old kindergarten is gradually transitioning from 15 to 30 hours each week across Victoria.

Pre-Prep will gradually roll out across the state, beginning in Whittlesea in 2026. The staged schedule allows time to grow the workforce, build the infrastructure, and services to prepare for expanded programs.

From 2026, between 16 and 25 hours of Pre-Prep will be available statewide to:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- children from a refugee or asylum seeker background
- children who have had contact with Child Protection services
- children supported by Early Start Kindergarten or Access to Early Learning in their 3 year-old kindergarten year.

If you think your child meets one of the eligibility criteria for Pre-Prep, talk to us about what the program may look like for your child in 2026. Hours will vary depending on the kindergarten you choose.

If your child is currently accessing Early Start Kindergarten in a kindergarten program in 2025, they are eligible for Pre-Prep from 2026.

Second year of 3 or 4 year old kindergarten

During 3 and 4 year-old kindergarten, your early childhood teacher will assess your child, plan for their move to school and identify any developmental areas that may need particular attention.

Some children may need a second year of either 3 or 4 year old kindergarten.

There are guidelines that early childhood teachers will follow to assess your child's eligibility for a second year of kindergarten. This helps the teacher identify your child's needs and goals.

The learning and development areas assessed by early childhood teachers include:

- **identity** – the child's sense of identity
- **community** – the child's connection with and contribution to their world
- **wellbeing** – the child's sense of wellbeing
- **learning** – the child's confidence and involvement in learning
- **communication** – the child's communication.

other factors may also be considered.

Your involvement

It's important that you and the teacher work together to achieve the best outcome for your child.

With your consent, the teacher will:

- complete the assessment of your child
- meet with you to discuss this assessment
- develop a Term 3 Learning and Development Plan for your child, if delays in your child's development are identified
- get the support of other early childhood development professionals as needed.

Annual Kindergarten Open Event

At least once a year Kindergartens across the municipality will showcase the quality 3 and 4 year old programs they offer by inviting families to attend an open day/night. For dates, visit Council's website.

This is a good opportunity to visit some of your local kindergartens, speak to staff, see the programs on offer and meet other families and the wider community.

Some kindergartens offer additional open days or tours. You are welcome to contact your local kindergarten to enquire.

Children with additional needs

If your child has additional needs, you can indicate this when completing the Application Form. Additional needs could include developmental delay, a chronic medical condition, illness, allergy or individual family circumstance.

If your child has a diagnosed disability, or if you are accessing early childhood intervention services, NDIS, please include this information on the application form.

The information is important so that the early childhood service may apply for additional resources to support your child.

For more information about services available for children with a disability contact the Whittlesea Preschool Field Officer (PSFO) based at Uniting Northwest via:

✉ psfo.northwest@vt.uniting.org
☎ **9351 3600**

If you are unsure if your child has additional needs, please contact your local health professional, or speak with your child's Maternal and Child Health Nurse.

Privacy

Information regarding your child's kindergarten placement can only be discussed with the parent/guardian listed on the application (the applicant). Council will not disclose information to anyone else unless approved by the applicant.

The City of Whittlesea is committed to the responsible collection and handling of personal information.

Council's Information Privacy Policy is available on request and can be viewed on Council's website.

Council collects and uses personal information to provide you with the services you require.

If at any time you wish to access your personal information, or have a complaint in relation to privacy, please contact Council on ☎ **9217 2170**.



FIND A KINDER PROGRAM (DE)

Shares a map to help you find a kindergarten program near you.

Preschool Dental Service

It is recommended for children to visit a dentist starting from one year of age. DPV Health is a child friendly environment that provides high quality children's dentistry and up to date information on dental health.

The service encourages a family oriented and supportive approach to dental care.

There is no waiting list for children and any child is eligible to attend prior to school entry. The cost is free for concession card holders and minimal for non concession card holders.

For more information or to make an appointment:

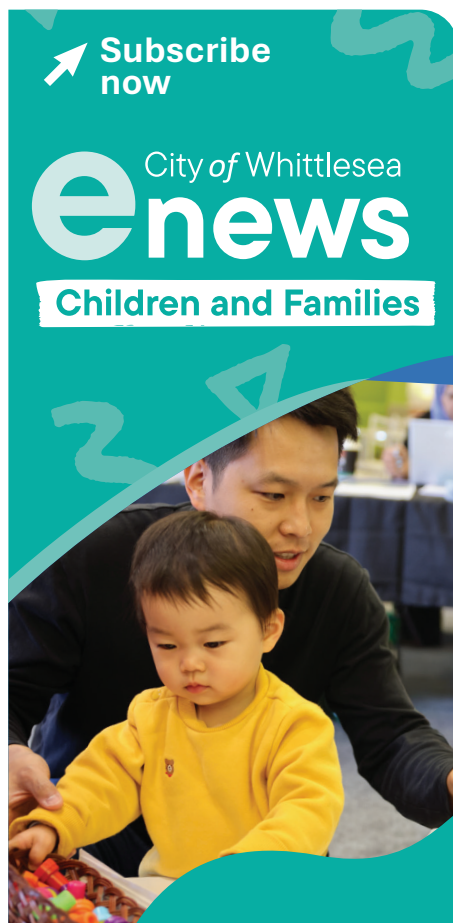
- **Northern Hospital**
187 Cooper Street, Epping
☎ **1300 234 263**
- **Whittlesea Centre**
40-42 Walnut Street, Whittlesea
☎ **1300 234 263**

Early years e-news

If you have young children, sign up to this newsletter to get local events, parenting tips and community news delivered straight to your inbox. You can connect with other families and find great resources for your little ones.



[whittlesea.vic.gov.au/
Services/Support-for-
people/Children-and-
families](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/Services/Support-for-people/Children-and-families)



PERFORMANCE PROGRAM 2026



PRACC

PLENTY RANGES ARTS
& CONVENTION CENTRE



Saturday 28 February
Melbourne Comedy
Showcase

Wednesday 4 March
Bobby Fox

Sunday 16 March
Community Festival

Wednesday 1 April
Wendy Stapleton

Wednesday 6 May
Silvie Paladino

Thursday 7 May
Melbourne International
Comedy Festival

Wednesday 1 July
The Australian Ballet –
Senior Workshops

Community Festival 15 March 2026



City of
Whittlesea

A dedicated Children and Families
zone will be at Plenty Ranges Art and
Convention Centre (PRACC), 35 Ferres
Blvd, South Morang





Raising children and young people 2026

Supporting Families in the City of Whittlesea

Discover a range of **FREE** parenting programs, sessions, and events designed to support families and caregivers in the City of Whittlesea.

 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/familytraining



Artist credit: *Contemplation*, Ildiko Kormanyos, Annual Art Award 2025

Belong

ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

Each year, Council hosts an art exhibition to showcase and celebrate the work of artists who live, work or are connected to the City of Whittlesea. This accessible exhibition provides a platform for local artists to exhibit and promote their work.

Entries open

**1 December 2025 –
16 March 2026**

Exhibition opens

2 May – 27 May 2026

**Plenty Ranges Art and
Convention Centre (PRACC),
35 Ferres Blvd, South Morang**

To find out more visit  whittlesea.vic.gov.au/artexhibition



Contact City of Whittlesea

 03 9217 2170

 eysiadminsupport@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Postal address

Locked Bag 1, Bundoora MDC VIC 3083

Council offices

25 Ferres Boulevard
South Morang VIC 3752
Monday -Friday, 8.30am -5pm

Whittlesea Services Hub

63 Church Street
Whittlesea VIC 3757
Monday -Friday, 9.30am-5pm

 Printed on 100%
recycled paper

whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Free telephone
interpreter service

131 450