

# Overview of Early Years Services (0-8 years)

## Maternal and Child Health

0-6 years

Free service available to all families with children.

Promotes the health and wellbeing of children and provides information and support for parents/ carers.

10 Key Age and Stage visits are offered, starting with a home visit.

Visits at 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 8 weeks, 4 months, 8 months, 12 months, 18 months, 2 years and 3.5 years.

A time limited Enhanced Visiting Program is available for eligible parents.

A 24-hour MCH telephone advice line is also available.

## Playgroup/ Supported Playgroup

0-6 years

**Community and Facilitated Playgroups:** Free or low-cost playgroup for children up to school age and their parents / carers.

Playgroups are either run by parents or facilitated and provide great play and social activities for between 1-2 hours/ week.

Parents/ carers must stay with their children at playgroup.

### Yarra Ranges Supported Playgroups:

Department of Education and Training fund free facilitated playgroup for children up to school age and their parents / carers that focus on everyday ways to support children's language and learning. Eligibility criteria applies.

## Childcare

0-8 years

Early childhood education and care programs are available for children aged 6 weeks to 8 years.

Fees apply as per service charges.

**Family Day Care** (provided in the home of carers).

**Long Day Care** (centre based). Care is usually provided for a full day and on a regular basis.

**Occasional Care** provides shorter sessions of centre based care up to 15 hours per week. Places are dependant on availability.

**Outside of School Hours Care/ Vacation Care** (centre or school based) is available for school aged children.

## 3yo Kindergarten

3 years

Most preschools operate 3-year-old sessions weekly with a qualified teacher/ educator, between 2-4 hours, depending on the service.

A valuable opportunity for children to play, learn and connect in a supportive setting. Fees apply as per service charges.

## Early Start to Kindergarten

3 years

Department of Education and Training subsidises free or low-cost access to eligible 3-year-old children to attend a kindergarten program that is delivered by a qualified teacher, for up to 15 hours per week.

Children must turn three by 30 April in the year of attendance and are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander or have had contact with Child Protection (or been referred by them to Child FIRST).

## Kindergarten/ Preschool

4 years

Children are eligible to attend 15 hours of funded kindergarten in the year prior to school. Children must turn four by 30 April in the year of attendance. Fees apply as per service charges.

Department of Education and Training subsidises free or low-cost access for families who hold a current Health Care Card, Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander children, specific visa holders and families with triplets or higher.

To enrol, contact the service directly.

## Primary School

5 years

Children need to turn five by April 30 in the year they start school. Attendance at school is compulsory in the year children turn six.



# Quick Contact Details

## Maternal and Child Health

Visit **Yarra Ranges Council** for a listing of Maternal and Child Health Centres in the area.

**Contact** the Yarra Ranges Maternal and Child Health Service on **1300 368 333** for all enquiries and appointments.

Maternal and Child Health Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **Call 13 22 29**

**Parentline** is a confidential phone counselling service for parents and carers of children and teens in Victoria. They offer information, referrals and assistance on a range of parenting issues.

Parentline is available 8am to midnight, 7 days a week. **Call 13 22 89**

## Community and Facilitated Playgroups

Visit **Playgroup Victoria** to find a playgroup in the area. Select your preferred location and list of relevant playgroups will be displayed.

**Contact** the relevant service directly for all enquiries and enrolment.

## Supported Playgroups

**Contact** the Yarra Ranges Early Years Team on **1300 368 333** or email **earlyyears@yarraranges.vic.gov.au** for all enquiries and enrolment.

## Childcare

Visit **www.mychild.gov.au** to find providers of long day care, out of school hours care, family day care, vacation care and occasional care. Select your preferred service and location and list of relevant providers will be displayed. Contact the relevant service directly for all enquiries and enrolment.

## Kindergarten/ Preschool

Visit **www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Lists/Find-a-preschool** for a list of community-based preschools and private child care centres offering both 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten programs in the area.

Each listing outlines session times, fees and enrolment information. Contact the relevant service directly for all enquiries and enrolment.

## Early Start Kindergarten Program

**Contact** the relevant service or email **nev.esk@edumail.vic.gov.au** directly for all enquiries and enrolment.

## Primary Schools

Visit **Department of Education and Training** to find a Primary School in the area. Select your preferred location and a list of primary schools will be displayed. Contact the relevant school directly for all enquiries and enrolment.