Introducing eKindy

eKindy offers a comprehensive ‘at home’ kindergarten program for your child in the year before Prep. The program is designed so that children living in rural and remote areas, travelling or medically unable to attend a local early childhood service can engage in quality kindergarten experiences and maximise their learning as they play, create, imagine and discover.

The eKindy program may be your first experience of distance education or you may be an experienced distance education parent. Your child may continue their learning in distance education next year, or may attend a school-based Prep program. Either way, the program will give your child the flying start they deserve.

The eKindy program

The eKindy program is teacher-supported and covers 15 hours of Kindergarten for 40 weeks of the year (school terms only), which is equivalent to a centre-based kindergarten program.

eKindy provides a flexible program that families are able to work through in ways that meet the needs of their child and family. This means you can spread the sessions across the week to fit around your work and family commitments. Your child’s teacher can also help you find ways to organise the program to meet the needs of your family and your child.

eKindy children learn as they play, create, imagine and discover.
Who can enrol in eKindy?

A child is eligible for eKindy if they:

- turn 4 by June 30 in their kindy year
- or their parent/s are Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia
- fit into one of the following categories:

  **Distance:**
  - their residence is at least 16 km by the most direct route by road from the nearest centre-based service catering to kindergarten-aged children.

  **Medical:**
  - they have a medical certificate stating they are unable to attend a centre-based service for more than 10 consecutive weeks due to their health

  **Travelling/Itinerant lifestyle:**
  - the child’s principal place of residence is likely to change at least twice during the registration year due to the parent’s work; or the child will have to spend a period of at least 10 weeks, or a number of periods of at least 2 weeks that total at least 10 weeks, away from the child’s principal place of residence during the registration year.

Eligibility for eKindy is limited to certain factors.

Parents have an active role and help the teacher with their child’s learning.
There are eight eKindy learning units

Each eKindy unit provides a learning program for the equivalent of three days each week for five weeks.

The eight eKindy units reflect current early years research and curriculum documents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1: My Home, My Kindy</th>
<th>Unit 5: Let’s Create</th>
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</table>
In Unit 1, you and your child will:  
• learn about eKindy  
• set up and use materials for learning in the home  
• explore the eKindy resources.  
In Unit 5, you and your child will:  
• explore ways to create  
• learn an Indigenous song and share an Indigenous story and artwork  
• choose ways to show or share their artwork.  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 2: I can ...</th>
<th>Unit 6: People and Places</th>
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In Unit 2, you and your child will:  
• investigate the things they can do  
• explore health and hygiene routines (self-care)  
• make an ‘I can...’ book.  
In Unit 6, you and your child will:  
• investigate their local community  
• learn about health and safety in the community  
• explore the role of a community person/worker  
• construct a ‘town’.  

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<tr>
<th>Unit 3: All About Me</th>
<th>Unit 7: Let’s Investigate</th>
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In Unit 3, you and your child will:  
• learn about their body and their emotions  
• identify ways they are special  
• record and share information about themselves.  
In Unit 7, you and your child will:  
• learn about the natural world  
• conduct science experiments  
• explore ways to share a favourite investigation.  

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<th>Unit 4: My Family, My Friends</th>
<th>Unit 8: Earth Watch</th>
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In Unit 4, you and your child will:  
• learn about their family and friends  
• record and share information about their family and friends  
• learn about other people’s families and friends.  
In Unit 8, you and your child will:  
• investigate different environments and connections between people and environments  
• explore ways to care for animals, plants and environments.  

Note: The eKindy unit activities reflect current research and the priorities outlined in the QKLG, which is based on the national Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF). The units have been developed to cover all the important learnings for kindy children identified in the QKLG.
The eKindy day

What's involved in an eKindy day?

An eKindy day involves 10 sessions that are similar to those experienced by children in centre-based programs.

### The eKindy learning sessions

**About our day (about 30 minutes)**
Involves working with your child to organise the eKindy day

**Share a story (about 30 minutes)**
Involves helping your child to engage positively with texts

**Music and games (about 30 minutes)**
Involves engaging in music experiences and physically active games

**Let's find out (about 30 minutes)**
Involves helping your child to explore the unit topic

**Play and discover (about 60 minutes)**
Involves choosing and exploring play and other activities of interest to your child

### The eKindy routines

**Morning tea and Lunchtime (about 30 minutes each)**
They will learn health and hygiene routines, build independence, oral language skills and explore print and numbers in real-life situations

**Pack up time (about 15 minutes)**
They will learn ways to be responsible, consider others, sort and group items, and build independence

**Quiet time (about 30 minutes)**
They will learn to rest and relax, regulate their feelings and own bodies, and ways to sustain their personal wellbeing

### The eKindy web session

**Web session (about 60 minutes)**
An online session led by a qualified early years teacher

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**Examples of different eKindy days**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
<th>Day 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>About our day</td>
<td>About our day</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let's find out</td>
<td>Share a story</td>
<td>Music and games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play and discover</td>
<td>Web session</td>
<td>Let's find out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning tea</td>
<td>Morning tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music and games</td>
<td>Let's find out</td>
<td>Web session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pack up time</td>
<td>Play and discover</td>
<td>Share a story</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share a story</td>
<td>Pack up time</td>
<td>Lunchtime</td>
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The eKindy materials

Parent Guide

This ‘Parent Guide’ introduces and provides an overview of the eKindy program and materials. The ‘Parent Guide’ can provide a focus for parent-teacher conversations and can be referred to during the year.

Unit materials

For each unit, you will also be provided with a learning guide and unit-specific resources to help your child to learn.

Other resources

Each eKindy day you and your child will use the:

- ‘Visual timetable’ and ‘About our day’ icons to organise your day
- ‘Song Book’ and ‘Music Time’ DVD as you engage in music experiences and physically active games
- ‘Activity picture cards’ to help choose play and other active learning experiences that interest your child.

You will also use the ‘Resource Book’ (referred to in each unit’s learning guide). It provides ideas and information on a broad range of topics including play activities, health and wellbeing, and early learning.