



eKindy in small schools – FAQs

What is eKindy?

eKindy is an 'at home' kindergarten program designed to be of **equivalent quality** to a centre-based kindergarten program based on the *Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline*.

Kindergarten programs are not part of 'schooling'. They are 'prior to school' programs.

Who can register for eKindy?

To be eligible for eKindy each child must meet the following criteria.

eKindy eligibility criteria

The child turns 4 by June 30 of their kindy year (a birth certificate is required at time of registration)

- *The child or a parent is an Australian citizen/permanent resident*
- *The family/child fits one of the legislated eligibility categories – Distance, Medical or*

Travelling/itinerant (Refer to the eKindy overview on the eKindy web page for more information <https://brisbanesde.eq.edu.au/Curriculum/ekindy/Pages/ekindy.aspx>)

Each parent must submit a registration form to the Brisbane School of Distance Education. Eligibility is assessed based on the information provided.

Why be involved with eKindy?

eKindy provides children/families with access to qualified early years teachers.

- Research shows that qualified early years teachers engage children in learning that extends children's thinking, language and maximises learning outcomes.
- Qualified teachers can assess children's learning and differentiate teaching to cater for diverse children and help families to connect to support services.

eKindy provides children/families with access to an approved kindergarten program.

- The eKindy materials provide 'layered', step-by-step advice to promote learning.
- The program builds capabilities for ongoing learning success, including self-regulation, thinking, language, social and interactional skills, as well as early literacy and numeracy skills.

The eKindy program supports parents/families to:

- develop skills that help their child to learn now and throughout their schooling
- connect with other kindy children and families, support services and networks.

What does eKindy cost?

Families who are eligible for eKindy **do NOT pay fees** for the eKindy program.

Approved kindergarten programs are eligible for funding through the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme (QKFS) managed by the Office for Early Childhood Education and Care (OECEC). In centre-based programs, families also pay fees.

eKindy pods receive a range of resources free of charge, including professional development and ongoing support for facilitators, access to program materials and resources, and where possible, activity sessions in regional areas.

How can a small school support eKindy families?

Small schools can:

- organise times for eKindy families to 'visit' and use school ICTs and internet for web sessions
- allow families to complete some eKindy activities as an informal 'playgroup' at the school
- arrange with eKindy BSDE to set up an eKindy pod at the school with a facilitator paid by an outside body to help deliver parts of the eKindy program
- access a grant to pay for the facilitator to support the eKindy pod

How long might it take to set up support for eKindy families?

Allow **2-4 weeks** of 'school term time' to work with the **BSDE eKindy team** **before starting** to engage children in the school-supported program if they are just beginning and are not yet familiar with the eKindy program.

Where possible, families should **register** for eKindy with the BSDE **from October** in the year **prior** to starting eKindy, so staffing and resourcing can be arranged for the start of the eKindy year. **The Waiting List is open from May 1.**

How might the eKindy program work in your school?

eKindy is **15 hours each week for 40 weeks/year** and is led by a **qualified early years teacher** based at a School of Distance Education.

The eKindy teacher will support the school-based facilitator to:

- utilise the eKindy unit materials and resources most effectively to suit the group of children
- plan with the facilitator, learning activities to complete while eKindy children are at the school
- plan ways families can follow-up/prepare for eKindy learning and share children's learning
- coordinate the sharing of information about children's learning
- set up ICTs and organise times for web sessions (at school and/or in children's homes).