

# **2026 Kindergarten Central Registration Application Guide**



#### STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Campaspe Shire Council is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe organisation, including places managed or owned by Council. All Council Officers including employees, contractors, volunteers and Councillors have a legal and moral obligation to keep children safe and promote their best interests.

Campaspe Shire Council has a zero tolerance to child abuse. Council is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and friendly organisation where all children are valued and protected from abuse. All allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently, in line with our robust policies and procedures. We are committed to identifying risks early and removing and reducing these risks.

Our commitment to the safety of children is based on our duty of care and responsibilities to children and always acting in the best interests of children.

The wellbeing and safety of children and young people in our care will always be our priority and we are committed to providing welcoming, culturally safe and accessible environments where children feel valued, empowered, listened to and considered in decisions that affect their lives. All children have the right to feel and be safe, be protected from harm and to be treated with dignity, respect and integrity regardless of their, or their families, age, gender, race, ability, health, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or social background.

We will ensure that child safety and wellbeing and protecting children from abuse is embedded in our organisational culture, reflected in our policies and procedures, and understood and practiced at all levels of our work.

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# KINDERGARTENS PARTICIPATING IN CAMPASPE SHIRE CENTRAL REGISTRATION ENROLMENT SCHEME

Berrimba Childcare (supporting Aboriginal/Torres Brigid's Light Early Learning Centre Echuca Strait Islander children) 88 Wilkinson Drive 94 Hare Street **ECHUCA ECHUCA** Phone 4439 1400 Phone 5480 6330 (managed by Sandhurst Catholic Early Childhood (managed by Njernda) Education and Care Ltd) 3 and 4 year old Kindergarten 3 and 4 year old Kindergarten Programs available (subject to change) Programs available (subject to change) Gurranyin- Tue / Wed 8:30 to 4pm 3YO Thornbills - Mon / Wed 8:30 - 4pm 4YO Eagles - Mon / Wed 8:30 - 4pm 4YO Magpies - Tues / Thur 8:30 to 4pm Colbinabbin Preschool Rushworth Kindergarten & Childcare Centre Recreation Reserve - Mitchell Street 32 Esmonde Street **COLBINABBIN** RUSHWORTH Phone 0429 101 511 Phone 5856 1591 (managed by Goulburn Region Preschool Association) (managed by Incorporated Committee of Management) 3 and 4 year old kindergarten 3 and 4 year old kindergarten Programs available (subject to change) Programs available (subject to change) Tue / Wed / Thur 9 to 2:30pm Tue / Wed / Thur 9-2pm Shine Bright Echuca Anstruther St Kindergarten Shine Bright Echuca Central Kindergarten 297 Anstruther Street 287 Anstruther Street **ECHUCA ECHUCA** Ph 5443 1229 Phone 5482 2284 (managed by Shine Bright EYM) (managed by Shine Bright EYM) 3 and 4 year old kindergarten Programs available (subject to change) 3 and 4 year old kindergarten Pevensey A - Tue / Thur 8:30 to 4pm Pevensey B - Tue / Fri 8:30 to 4pm Pevensey C - Thur / Fri 8:30 to 4pm Programs available (subject to change) Wala - Tue / Thur 8:30 to 4pm Pyap - Mon / Wed 8:30 to 4pm Shine Bright Echuca East Preschool **Shine Bright Echuca South Community Preschool** 232 High Street 115 Stawell Street **ECHUCA ECHUČA** Phone 5482 2783 Phone 5482 1740 (managed by Shine Bright EYM) (managed by Shine Bright EYM) 3 and 4 year old kindergarten 3 and 4 year old kindergarten Programs available (subject to change) Programs available (subject to change) Batja A - Tue / Thur 8:45 to 4:15pm Kangaroo (Gayimarr) - Mon / Wed 8:30 to 4pm Koala (Gurburr) A - Tue / Thur 8:30 to 4pm Koala (Gurburr) B - Tue / Fri 8:30 to 4pm Koala (Gurburr) C - Thurs / Fri 8:30 to 4pm Batja B – Tue / Fri 8:45 to 4:15pm Batja C – Thur / Fri 8:45 to 4:15pm Girrawa - Mon / Wed 8:45 to 4:15pm Dungala - Mon / Wed 8:30 to 4pm Yakoa A - Tue / Thu 8:30 to 4pm Yakoa B - Tue / Fri 8:30 to 4pm Yakoa C - Thur / Fri 8:30 to 4pm Shine Bright Girgarre Kindergarten Shine Bright Gunbower Kindergarten School Road 1 Wilson Street **GIRGARRE GUNBOWER** Phone 5854 6368 Phone 5487 1382 (managed by Shine Bright EYM) (managed by Shine Bright EYM) 3 and 4 year old kindergarten 3 and 4 year old kindergarten Programs available (subject to change) Programs available (subject to change) Tue / Wed / Thur 9 - pm Mon / Tue / Wed 9 - 2pm

Shine Bright Kyabram Fenaughty St Kindergarten	Shine Bright Kyabram P-12 Kindergarten
Fenaughty Street	Haslem Street
KYABŘAM	KYABRAM
Phone 5852 1631	Phone 5892 2070
(managed by Shine Bright EYM)	(managed by Shine Bright EYM)
3 and 4 year old kindergarten	3 and 4 year old kindergarten
3 and 4 year old kindergarten	3 and 4 year old kindergatteri
Programs available (subject to change)	Programs available (subject to change)
Possums – Mon / Thur & every 2nd Wed 9 to 3pm	Puggles – Tue / Fri & every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 9 to 3pm
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Shine Bright Kyabram - Unwin Street Kindergarten	Shine Bright Lockington Kindergarten
Unwin Street	8 Burns Street
KYABRAM	LOCKINGTON
Phone 5852 2148	Phone 5486 2585
(managed by Shine Bright EYM)	(managed by Shine Bright EYM)
3 and 4 year old kindergarten	3 and 4 year old kindergarten
Programs available (subject to change)	Programs available (subject to change)
Koalas – Mon / Thur & every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 9 to 3pm	Turtles – Mon / Thur & every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 8:45 to 2:45pm
	Emus – Tues / Fri & every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 8:45 to 2:45pm
Olive Brita Berlander Krateren der	Olive Division of Division (Control of Control of Contr
Shine Bright Rochester Kindergarten	Shine Bright Stanhope & District Kindergarten
Edward Street	1 Godley Place
ROCHESTER	STANHOPE
Phone 5484 1532	Phone 5857 2297
(managed by Shine Bright EYM)	(managed by Shine Bright EYM)
3 and 4 year old kindergarten	3 and 4 year old kindergarten
Programs available (subject to change)	Programs available (subject to change)
Echidnas – Mon / Wed 8:30 to 4pm	Wed / Thur / Fri 9 to 2pm
Turtles – Tue / Thur / Fri 9 to 2pm	
·	
Shine Bright Tongala Kindergarten	
8 Nihill Street	
TONGALA	
Phone 5859 0268	
(managed by Shine Bright EYM)	
3 and 4 year old kindergarten	
Programs available (subject to change)	
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Programs available (subject to change) Emus – Tue / Thur 8:30 to 4pm Kangaroos – Mon / Wed / Fri 9 to 2pm	

# NON-PARTICIPATING KINDERGARTENS IN THE SHIRE OF CAMPASPE

Please contact these services directly regarding kindergarten enrolments. These services are not part of the Campaspe Shire Central Registration program.

Journey Early Learning Echuca Ogilvie Avenue ECHUCA Phone 5480 1974	KCLC Early Learning 21-25 Lake Road KYABRAM Phone 5852 0000 (Managed by Kyabram Community and Learning Centre)	Country Kidz Preschool 715 Henderson Road TONGALA Phone: 5859 0194
Goodstart Early Learning Echuca Northern Highway ECHUCA Phone 5482 1088		Aussie Kindies Early Learning 28 Unwin Street KYABRAM Phone 1800 244 532

# **INTRODUCTION**

The Kindergarten Central Registration Application Guide details the eligibility and allocation criteria used in offering kindergarten places at kindergartens participating in the Campaspe Shire Council Kindergarten Central Registration scheme.

This guide will be regularly updated and reviewed in line with Victorian state government kindergarten policy and reform changes.

#### WHAT IS KINDERGARTEN CENTRAL REGISTRATION?

Central Registration and Enrolment Scheme (CRES) is a best practice model for local councils to support families and carers to secure a kindergarten place for their child.

CRES provides a single point for families to apply for multiple kindergarten services within a local government area, helping them secure a place that meets their needs. It ensures that the process is simple, consistent, inclusive and equitable.

# WHEN TO START KINDERGARTEN

Children can attend kindergarten programs in the two years before they start primary school. Please see the departments website for further information about sending your child to kinder and When to start kindergarten | vic.gov.au (www.vic.gov.au).

Use the <u>starting age calculator</u> and enter your child's birth date to find out when they can start Three-Year-Old and Four-Year-Old kindergarten.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

# **Three-Year-Old Kindergarten**

Three-Year-Old kindergarten is fully funded by the Victorian Government and offers up to 15 hours per week.

To be eligible for Three-Year-Old kindergarten, a child must be at least three years of age by 30 April in the year they are to attend Three-Year-Old kindergarten.

Families with children turning three between 1 January and 30 April have a choice about which year their child will start kindergarten. Children turning three between February and April in the year of attendance can apply and be offered a place at kindergarten, however children will not be able to commence in the program until they have turned three. If families are unsure about the best time to start kinder, they can seek advice from a trusted early childhood professional such as local kindergarten teachers or their child's MCH nurse. All children learn and develop in different ways and families are best placed to consider when is best for their child to commence kindergarten.

### **Four-Year-Old Kindergarten (Pre-Prep)**

Children must be four years of age or older by 30 April in the year they attend kindergarten, Children are only eligible for one year of funded Four-Year-Old kindergarten in the year before school (unless qualifying for a second year.)

From 2026, Four-Year-Old Kindergarten will gradually transition to Pre-Prep, with select programs across Victoria increasing from a maximum 15 hours each week to between 16-25 hours each week.

Pre-Prep will give Four-Year-Old children greater opportunities to socialise and learn through play. Pre-Prep will be delivered through standalone (sessional) kindergartens and long day care centres.

Both Pre-Prep and Three-Year-Old Kinder are part of the <u>Free Kinder</u> program.

In 2026, eligible Campaspe children can access between 16 -25 hours per week of free kinder\*. 2026 launch priority groups include children:

- who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- from a refugee or asylum seeker background
- who have had contact with Child Protection

More information and to check eligibility can be found by visiting the <u>Victorian Government</u> <u>website</u> <u>www.vic.gov.au/preprep</u>

<sup>\*\*</sup>where capacity allows at individual Kindergarten services. Some exemptions apply

#### SECOND YEAR OF FUNDED FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN

A second year of funded Four-Year-Old Kindergarten may be considered when a child shows delays in learning and development outcome areas, and when:

- the kindergarten program is deemed to be the most appropriate learning program
- the child will achieve better outcomes at kindergarten than if they go to school.

A second-year assessment process must be carried out for each child by an early childhood teacher when a second year is being considered. Applications for a second year of funded Four-Year-Old kindergarten are submitted by a child's teacher to the Department of Education (DE) for approval.

For more information, see the Departments website <u>Second year of funded Four-Year-Old Kindergarten | vic.gov.au (www.vic.gov.au)</u>

# CHILD'S IMMUNISATION STATUS - NO JAB NO PLAY LEGISLATION

Under the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation, to confirm enrolment in a kindergarten program, families must provide the following;

- A current immunisation statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR); AND
- The statement must show that the child is up to date with all vaccines that are due for their age, or that they are able to receive.

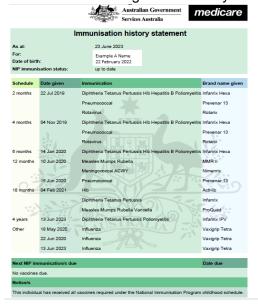
Immunisation History Statements can be downloaded from your MyGov Account, the Medicare App, by calling the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809 or by visiting your local Medicare office. If you are unable to access your child's statement, please contact our team for support.

A valid medical exemption for children who are not able to be fully vaccinated includes:

- An anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of a particular vaccine or
- An anaphylactic reaction to any vaccine component
- Has a disease which lowers immunity (such as leukaemia, cancer, HIV/AIDS, SCID) or;
- Is having treatment which lowers immunity (such as chemotherapy).

If a child has a medical reason they cannot be vaccinated, a GP or immunisation nurse would need to complete and sign a Medicare Immunisation Exemption Medical Contraindication Form and send to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).

Only histories from the Australian Immunisation Register will be accepted – please **DO NOT** attach a statement from a medical professional, GP or your child's Maternal and Child Health Green Book. Please see the following factsheet which has been developed by the Department of Health to assist parents and carers to understand immunisation requirements regarding enrolment in kindergarten and daycare: <a href="starting-childcare-or-kindergarten.docx">starting-childcare-or-kindergarten.docx</a> (live.com)



#### **CENTRAL REGISTRATION TIMELINE**

1 May Registration applications open

30 June Central registration applications close for 1<sup>st</sup> round offers. If you do not

submit your kindergarten registration prior to 30 June your application will

be deemed as late. You will not be eligible for first round offers.

Mid July Eligible 1st round offers made via email.

End of July Eligible 2<sup>nd</sup> round offers made

Mid August 3<sup>rd</sup> and final round offers made (if vacancies still available)

From September Council accepts registrations throughout the year. Places will be allocated

as applications are received (if vacancies exist)

#### **HOW PLACES ARE ALLOCATED**

If there are an equal (or lesser) number of kindergarten places available to applications received, all applicants will receive an offer according to their first preference. If your first preference is unavailable, you will be offered the next available preference in order. If there are more applicants than places available at a particular kindergarten, places will be allocated in accordance with the Victorian government and local priority of access guidelines (see below). Please only list preferences that you are willing to accept.

Three-Year-Old kindergarten enrolments are <u>not carried over</u> to Four-Year-Old kindergarten the following year. Families attending services will be required to submit a new central registration application each year. This is DE's policy position during the roll out of Three-Year-Old kindergarten to ensure equal opportunity for Four-Year-Old kindergarten to all children (not just those who attended Three-Year-Old kindergarten).

# PRIORITY OF ACCESS CRITERIA

The priority of access criteria are requirements set by the Victorian Government specifying how kindergarten places must be allocated to children. It works to ensure that:

- a transparent, equitable and approved process is followed.
- the maximum number of children receive a kindergarten place.
- children who are eligible for priority places are allocated a place in their kindergarten of choice.

We have a strong commitment to ensuring that, wherever possible, all children are allocated a place in a kindergarten service. We cannot, however, guarantee a kindergarten placement for every child.

# Applications are processed in line with the priority of access guidelines below:

(Disclaimer: Priority of access is based on current <u>Legislation</u>. These priorities are current at time of printing. Visit https://www.vic.gov.au/priority-access-criteria)

High Priority Children	
Children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children in Out-of-Home Care	The child is:  Eligible for Early Start Kindergarten or Access to Early Learning, and/or  Family, carer or legal guardian identifies the child as known to Child Protection or in out-of-home-care, and/or  Referred by one of the following:  Child Protection Child and Family Services (family services referral and support team, Child FIRST/integrated family services/Services Connect case worker)  Maternal and Child Health Nurse Out of Home Care provider
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children	Families who identify the child as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
Asylum seeker and refugee children	An appropriate visa identifies the child and/or parents as a refugee or asylum seeker
Priority Children	
Children eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy	<ul> <li>A child or parent holds a Commonwealth Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veteran's Affairs Card, and/or</li> <li>Multiple birth children: triplets or quadruplets</li> </ul>
Children with additional needs, defined as children who:  Require additional assistance in order to fully participate in the kindergarten program  Require a combination of services which are individually planned  Have an identified specific disability or developmental delay	<ul> <li>The child:</li> <li>Is assessed as having delays in two or more areas and is declared eligible for a second year of funded kindergarten</li> <li>Holds a Child Disability Health Care Card</li> <li>Has previously been approved for Kindergarten inclusion Support Package, or referred by: <ul> <li>The national Disability Insurance Scheme</li> <li>Early Childhood Intervention Services</li> <li>Preschool Field Officer, or</li> <li>Maternal and Child Health Nurse</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Having satisfied the above Priority of Access criteria, remaining places will be allocated utilising the following Campaspe Shire Council Local Priority of Access criteria;

Local agreed criteria to allocate places		
2. Campaspe resident - currently attending (3YO) or registering sibling in same year	<ul> <li>Child is a resident of the Shire of Campaspe; AND</li> <li>A sibling is registering in the same year (i.e. a family are enrolling twins in the same year or one child in Three-Year-Old and another in Four-Year-Old</li> <li>are currently enrolled in Three-Year-Old at a participating Campaspe kindergarten service registering for Four-Year-Old kindergarten the following year.</li> </ul>	
3. Campaspe resident	<ul> <li>Children who are residents (or will be) of the Shire of Campaspe (who do not meet the above local criteria).</li> <li>Note: This includes families in the process of moving to the municipality</li> </ul>	
4. Victorian residents	Children who live in Victoria (outside the Shire of Campaspe) and meet kindergarten eligibility criteria for kindergarten enrolment.	

5. Interstate residents currently attending Three-Year-Old (relevant for Four-Year-Old kindergarten only) or a sibling attending in the same year	<ul> <li>Children who are currently enrolled in Three-Year-Old at a participating Campaspe kindergarten service who are registering for Four-Year-Old kindergarten the following year.</li> <li>A sibling is registering in the same year (i.e. a family are enrolling twins in the same year or one child in Three-Year-Old and another in Four-Year-Old</li> </ul>
6. Interstate residents	Children who reside outside Victoria who meet the eligibility criteria for kindergarten enrolment.
	Please note that registrations from interstate residents (with no prior connection) and equal priority will be allocated randomly for first round offers and then for subsequent rounds or outside the registration timeframe, allocated based on date application was submitted.

Priority is allocated utilising a scoring system. Applications with equal priority will be allocated randomly for first round offers and then by date of application outside the registration period.

# **PRIVACY & CONSENT**

The personal and health information collected by Campaspe Shire Council is used to coordinate the Campaspe Shire Kindergarten Central Registration Scheme. The information provided will be used solely for this purpose, or any other directly related purpose and will be collected, stored, and disclosed in line with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)* and the *Health Records Act 2001*. The information may be shared with other organisations and government agencies with your consent, or where required by law.

Council may disclose this information to other organisations and government departments if required by legislation. Visit council's website for a copy of the Privacy and Data Protection Policy (Policy 81). If at any time you wish to access or amend your personal information or have a concern in relation to privacy, please contact council on 03 5481 2200.

When completing the application form, you will need to provide consent for council to disclose **any** information collected as part of the application process with the relevant kindergarten service and kindergarten manager when confirmation of your child's kindergarten placement is received. Please note that this includes copies of concession card details (if applicable).

# **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

The following supporting documents must be provided to support your child's application:

- Immunisation statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)
- Concession card (if applicable)

#### **INCOMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS**

To process your application all sections of the application form must be completed and supporting documents attached. If you require assistance completing your application, please contact Council's Kindergarten Registration team on 1300 666 535 or <a href="mailto:kinder@campaspe.vic.gov.au">kinder@campaspe.vic.gov.au</a>. Applications will not be processed until all information and supporting documents are provided.

#### KINDERGARTEN PLACEMENT OFFERS

# Accepting an offer

An email will be sent to families offering your child a placement. Please ensure you check your inbox as well as spam/junk email folders.

Families are required to accept/decline offers within 7 days. If a response is not received within the allocated timeframe families will receive a reminder email, followed by a phone call if no further response is received. If families are unable to be contacted after multiple attempts and no response is received, the placement will be forfeited and offered to the next child on the waiting list.

# After an offer is accepted

When a kindergarten offer is accepted, your information will be forwarded onto the relevant kindergarten/early years manager. Kindergartens will contact families directly about orientation and finalising your child's enrolment into kindergarten.

### Declining an offer

If a family chooses to withdraw an accepted offer they are required to notify Council's Kindergarten Registration team on 1300 666 535 or kinder@campaspe.vic.gov.au.

#### **CHANGE OF PERSONAL DETAILS**

Please ensure that your contact details are kept up to date with Council. If Council has incorrect details we will be unable to contact you with information which may be important to your child's kindergarten application

# **CHANGING PREFERENCES**

Any change to an application should be discussed with the Central Registration Officer by phoning 1300 666 535 or by email to <a href="mailto-kinder@campaspe.vic.gov.au">kinder@campaspe.vic.gov.au</a>. Council will communicate any changes to the kindergarten and early years manager/committee. Please note: any change of preference received after 30 June will be treated as a new application and will not be eligible for first round offers.

#### **WAITING LIST**

The kindergarten registration system allocates families in accordance with the priority of access criteria. If you do not receive your first preference, you may choose to not accept alternative preferences and remain on the waiting list at your preferred kindergarten. Council will notify families if/when a place becomes available.

### LODGING YOUR APPLICATION FORM

One kindergarten application form is required per child.

Please complete your application form, and attach relevant supporting documents online via Council's website <a href="www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/kindergartens">www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/kindergartens</a>. If you are unable to complete an online application, please contact Council for a hard copy form. Please note applications will not be processed until ALL required documentation is provided.

# **Further information**

If you have any questions in relation to the central registration application process or any other general kindergarten enquiries, please contact:

**Campaspe Shire Council** 

**Central Registration Enrolments (Kindergarten)** 

Phone: 1300 666 535

Email: kinder@campaspe.vic.gov.au