

Which ECMS early learning service type is best for your family?

This table outlines the key features of each ECMS early learning service type. It will help you select the service that best meets your family's individual needs.

	Childcare	Kindergarten and preschool
Program description	All ECMS services offer a high-quality play-based learning program designed to develop your child's physical, emotional, social and intellectual skills.	
	<p>Programs are based on the National and Victorian Early Years Learning Frameworks, and are delivered in line with National Quality Standards.</p> <p>An integrated and approved four-year-old kindergarten program</p>	<p>Programs are based on the National and Victorian Early Years Learning Frameworks, and are delivered in line with National Quality Standards.</p>
Caters to children aged	Six weeks - five years	Three years - five years
Educator qualifications	All educators have industry qualifications, such as: bachelor, diploma or certificate III.	<p>All lead educators are at least bachelor qualified.</p> <p>All co-educators hold a certificate III or diploma qualification.</p>
Learning spaces and resources	All ECMS services offer spacious, stimulating and interactive indoor and outdoor spaces, with a focus on natural resources.	

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Incursions, regular outings and excursions	Quality, safe and enriching experiences, these age appropriate incursions and regular outings are included in the fees, some excursions may require a small parent contribution.	
Nutritious meals	Prepared freshly on site each day, catering to cultural, religious and dietary requirements.	Meals are supplied by families.
Nappies and wipes	Included	Not applicable
Hours of operation and session times	<p>ECMS centres are open for at least 11 hours a day, five days a week.</p> <p>Kindergarten programs are delivered four to five days per week.</p> <p>Services operate during school term breaks (except for two weeks over Christmas).</p>	<p>All four-year-old programs offer at least 15 hours per week, some slightly more.</p> <p>Three-year-old kinder program hours vary by centre.</p> <p>Programs are not offered during school term breaks.</p>
Fees and government rebates	<p>Daily fees vary per centre.</p> <p>Families are eligible for a rebate of up to \$7,500 per child a year.</p> <p>Means-tested childcare benefits and special childcare benefits may apply. Contact Centrelink for full details.</p>	<p>The government funds all four-year-old kindergarten programs. However, this does not cover the full cost of the program. Parent fees cover the remainder. Prices vary by kindergarten, the average cost is around \$460 per term.</p> <p>Your child could be eligible for free four-year-old kindergarten if you meet the government criteria.</p> <p>Free or subsidised three-year-old only applies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children known to child protection. Contact Centrelink for full details.</p>

Need more help?

Contact ECMS on 8481 1117 and we'll help you find the best solution for your child.