

Media Release

Ingrid Stitt MP
Minister for Workplace Safety
Minister for Early Childhood



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STATEWIDE KINDER KIT SURPRISE FOR THREE-YEAR-OLD KIDS

The Andrews Labor Government will give Victorian children starting their education at Three-Year-Old Kinder in 2022 a special Kinder Kit – helping to give them the best start on their learning journey.

Minister for Early Childhood Ingrid Stitt today announced that as part of the Three-Year-Old Kinder statewide rollout next year, Kinder Kits will be available for enrolled children at the start of the year, thanks to an \$8 million investment in the *Victorian Budget 2021/22*.

The specially designed kits are being created to complement kinder learning by offering fun and creative activities to encourage family engagement in the child’s education and promote awareness of the benefits of continued learning at home.

To help to keep jobs local and support Victoria’s economic recovery from the pandemic, Victorian businesses are being encouraged to submit proposals to help resource the kits.

The materials for the kit will be sourced locally and produced sustainably where possible. The kit will also align with the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework outcomes of identity, community, wellbeing, learning and communication.

An independent panel of Victorian early childhood experts will advise on items that are safe, sustainable, inclusive and provide fun ways to kick-start children’s early education.

In an Australian-first, the Labor Government is investing almost \$5 billion this decade to provide three-year-old children with access to an additional year of funded kindergarten programs.

From 2022, three-year-old children across the state will have access to at least five hours of kindergarten. Services will then scale up their hours to reach the full 15-hour program by 2029.

Families can talk to their local kindergarten and long day care services about enrolling for 2022, and can look for a service near them by visiting the new ‘Find a Kinder Program’ website at findakinder.educationapps.vic.gov.au.

For more information on the process and to apply to design or provide materials for the Kinder Kits, see tenders.vic.gov.au after 3:00pm today.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Early Childhood Ingrid Stitt

“Universal access to Three-Year-Old Kinder is one of the most significant reforms we have made to early childhood education, and it is crucial to providing our children with lifelong academic, social and emotional benefits.”

“These Kinder Kits will be a wonderful way for families to take part in their child’s learning and understand the benefits of kindergarten – and we can’t wait to see them with fantastic locally-made products for kids to enjoy.”