

# Media Release

**The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP**

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Minister for Children  
Minister for Disability



Wednesday, 13 December 2023

## KINDER KITS HELP KIDS CONTINUE LEARNING AT HOME

The Allan Labor Government is giving tens of thousands of children starting kinder across Victoria next year a free Kinder Kit full of fun and educational toys, helping them grow and learn through creativity and play.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn today visited Sherbrooke Family and Children's Centre in Upwey to unveil the contents of next year's kits with the help of expert product testers – a group of three-year-old kinder students.

The kits are designed to encourage continued learning at home – helping parents support their children to thrive in their first year of kinder with activities to develop language and social skills, and express emotions and creativity.

All children starting Three-Year-Old Kindergarten in 2024 will receive a free Kinder Kit, including children enrolled in Early Start Kindergarten and Access to Early Learning programs.

The illustrated Kinder Kit activity box is made from recycled materials – designed and built for flexible, long-term use. The box folds into an easel, includes a chalkboard, and can be laid out flat as a space for imaginative play.

The Kit includes Tinta crayons, chalk, Ultimatum felt puppets, Tiger Tribe shape shakers, Seed Collection alfalfa seeds, a Hardie Grant jigsaw puzzle map of Australia featuring First Nations placenames and state flora and fauna emblems, Cherub Baby balancing gems, and Flip Make Play family playing cards.

Children also receive two books by Australian authors from the following list: *Birds In The Bush* by Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir and Jeannette Rowe, which can be read in Boon wurrung and English; *I Just Ate My Friend* by Heidi McKinnon; *Heads and Tails* by John Canty; and *Where is Galah?* by Sally Morgan.

The 2024 Kinder Kit comes with an illustrated family guide featuring simple and creative ways to engage children in activities that help them to play, learn and develop. Additional tips and ideas, plus online resources, including how-to videos and Auslan readings of the Kit's books, are available via a handy QR code.

Each item in the kit is age-appropriate, child-safe and inclusive, and has been recommended by education experts to help families make play-based learning part of their child's everyday life.

All Kinder Kit suppliers are Australian – with many Victorian businesses, creative talent and makers proudly represented in the Kit's design and items.

Kinder Kits are part of the Labor Government's \$14 billion *Best Start, Best Life* reforms – giving every Victorian child the very best start to their education, while saving families money and supporting parents back into the workforce.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn

*"Children learn about themselves and the world through play – and parents, carers and families are a huge part of that learning journey."*

*"Kinder Kits are full of fun and educational books and activities to help children and their families explore and learn together at home."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Monbulk Daniela De Martino

*"A big thank you to our Kinder Kit testers today – it's incredibly exciting to have kids in Upwey show children across the region and Victoria the books and activities that will help them thrive in their first year of kinder."*

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