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# DAREBIN CHILD CARE GUIDE

**Child care centres offer full-time, part-time and occasional care for children up to school entry age. To commence child care a child must be aged between 3-6 months and 5 years of age. The minimum age varies between centres and families are required to check the age requirements of their preferred child care centres.**

Child care centres offer families a safe and positive learning environment where children can benefit from social interactions with children their own age and opportunities to make new friends. Child care centres operate a full program of activities throughout the day to keep children amused and stimulated, including play based learning. Attending a child care centre can assist children with their development, with educators trained to know when a child is ready for the next stage of their physical and mental development, and the skills to support that growth. Further, attending a child care centre may help with preparing children for the transition to kindergarten and school, as the skills they learn at child care can help prepare them for the classroom.

Some child care centres also offer a funded four year old kindergarten program, delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher, providing families with the convenience of having a younger child in child care and an older child attending kindergarten at the same location.



**There are different types of child care and it's important to explore all options available. The different types of care offered are:**

### **Occasional Care**

Occasional Care is a centre-based form of child care, responsive to the needs of the general community and provides flexible care which allows parents to meet their work-related and non-work related commitments. Most Occasional Care centres have flexible operating hours and can cater for children whose parents work irregular hours or need someone to look after their children occasionally, for example when they have a medical or other type of appointment.

Families can access occasional care regularly or irregularly on a sessional basis. Occasional Care provides families with the flexibility to leave children in an early learning environment for the hours or days that best meet their needs. Occasional Care services charge fees that reflect the amount of time a child spends in care at the centre.

Occasional Care centres are licensed by the Victorian Government and regulated by the Victorian Children's Services Act 1996 and Children's Services Regulations 2009, to ensure that services are operated in accordance with National Law and National Regulations.

### **Family Day Care**

Family Day Care provides a range of care options including all-day care, part-time, casual, overnight, before and after school care, and care during school holidays. Family Day Care educators and services must meet their obligations under the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care and comply with the Early Childhood Services Education and Care National Law and National Regulations, and any other applicable state and territory regulations, when providing care to children.

A Family Day Care educator may provide care in their home for the maximum of seven children, with no more than four children kindergarten aged or under, including the educator's own children, in accordance with the National Law and National Regulations. For further information about Family Day Care in Darebin, contact Family Day Care Victoria. [www.familydaycare.org.au](http://www.familydaycare.org.au)





# CHILD CARE IN DAREBIN



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- 1 AMIGA Montessori, Reservoir**  
117 Edwardes St, Reservoir  
T 9088 6216  
[amiga-montessori.com.au](http://amiga-montessori.com.au)
- 2 Annie Dennis Children's Centre**  
2 Oldis Ave, Northcote  
T 9486 7638 [anniedennis.org.au](http://anniedennis.org.au)
- 3 Bell Street Early Learning Centre & Kinder**  
573 Bell St, Preston  
T 9480 5272 [bellstreetelc.com.au](http://bellstreetelc.com.au)
- 4 Clifton Street Children's Centre**  
55 Clifton St Northcote  
T 9486 3299 [cliftoncc.org.au](http://cliftoncc.org.au)
- 5 Darebin Childcare & Kindergarten, Preston**  
260 Gower St, Preston  
T 9471 3780 [dccandk.org.au](http://dccandk.org.au)
- 6 Darebin Childcare and Kindergarten, Reservoir**  
6-8 Kenilworth St, Reservoir  
T 9469 2226 [dccandk.org.au](http://dccandk.org.au)
- 7 Dewdrops Early Learning**  
89 Delaware St, Reservoir  
T 9478 3615  
[dewdropsearlylearning.com.au](http://dewdropsearlylearning.com.au)
- 8 Edwardes Street Child Care Centre & Kindergarten**  
41 Edwardes St, Reservoir  
T 9469 4640 [careforkids.com.au](http://careforkids.com.au)
- 9 Explorers Early Learning**  
391 Murray Rd, Preston  
T 9069 0545 [eel.com.au](http://eel.com.au)
- 10 Goodstart Early Learning, Karl Court Bundoora**  
18-20 Karl Crt, Bundoora  
T 9466 9877 [goodstart.org.au](http://goodstart.org.au)
- 11 Goodstart Early Learning, Preston**  
22A Regent St, Preston  
T 9471 4688 [goodstart.org.au](http://goodstart.org.au)
- 12 Goodstart Early Learning, Reservoir**  
20-22 Gertz Ave, Reservoir  
T 9462 2722 [goodstart.org.au](http://goodstart.org.au)
- 13 Goodstart Early Learning, Thornbury**  
99-101 Harold St, Thornbury  
T 9484 0233 [goodstart.org.au](http://goodstart.org.au)
- 14 Great Beginnings, Reservoir**  
763 Gilbert Rd, Reservoir  
T 9478 9222  
[greatbeginnings.com.au](http://greatbeginnings.com.au)
- 15 Happy Hubbub**  
239A Murray Rd, Preston  
T 1300 482 282  
[happyhubbub.com.au](http://happyhubbub.com.au)
- 16 Inspire Early Learning Journey**  
235-239 Murray Rd, Preston  
T 9478 1231 [inspireminds.com.au](http://inspireminds.com.au)
- 17 Jika Jika Community Centre**  
Corner Plant & Union St, Northcote  
T 9482 5100 [jikajika.org.au](http://jikajika.org.au)
- 18 Journey Early Learning, Alphington**  
94 Grange Rd, Alphington  
T 9499 8799  
[journeyearlylearning.com.au](http://journeyearlylearning.com.au)
- 19 Kool Kidz Childcare, Preston**  
59 Plenty Rd, Preston  
T 9484 2448  
[koolkidzchildcare.com.au](http://koolkidzchildcare.com.au)
- 20 LaTrobe University Community Children's Centre**  
LaTrobe University  
T 9479 2122 [latrobe.edu.au/child](http://latrobe.edu.au/child)
- 21 Melbourne Juniors**  
24 Sheila St, Preston  
T 9470 2844 [careforkids.com.au](http://careforkids.com.au)
- 22 Merri Community Childcare Centre & Kindergarten**  
313 St Georges Rd, Thornbury  
T 9416 9227 [merriccc.com.au](http://merriccc.com.au)
- 23 Merrilands Children's Centre & Kindergarten**  
23-25 Ryan St, Reservoir  
T 9460 4674 [lentarauc.org.au](http://lentarauc.org.au)
- 24 Nara Community Early Learning Centre**  
77-99 (Rear) St Georges Rd, Preston  
T 9471 9914 [naracommunity.com](http://naracommunity.com)
- 25 Nicki's Clever Cookies**  
57 Cunningham St, Northcote  
T 9489 9508  
[nickisclevercookies.com.au](http://nickisclevercookies.com.au)
- 26 Nino Early Learning Adventures**  
365 Bell St, Preston  
T 8582 7000 [ninoela.com.au](http://ninoela.com.au)
- 27 Northland Kinder Haven**  
59-65 Wood St, Preston  
T 9471 1511 [kinderhaven.com.au](http://kinderhaven.com.au)
- 28 Oakhill Children's Centre**  
91 North Rd, Reservoir  
T 9470 1914 [ecms.org.au](http://ecms.org.au)
- 29 Only About Children**  
160-162 Victoria Rd, Northcote  
T 8529 5000 [oac.edu.au](http://oac.edu.au)
- 30 Paisley Park Early Learning Centre**  
18-22 Main Dr, Bundoora  
T 1800 724 753 [paisleypark.com.au](http://paisleypark.com.au)
- 31 Perry Street Childcare Centre & Elizabeth Gorman Memorial Kindergarten**  
129 Perry St, Fairfield 3078  
T 9489 2949 [perrystreet.com.au](http://perrystreet.com.au)
- 32 Raleigh Street Child Care Centre**  
28 Raleigh St, Thornbury  
T 9484 2440 [raleighstccc.org](http://raleighstccc.org)
- 33 Reservoir Leisure Centre**  
Occasional Care  
2A Cuthbert Rd, Reservoir  
T 9496 1050 [darebin.vic.gov.au](http://darebin.vic.gov.au)
- 34 Smart Start Early Learning & Development Centre**  
18-24 Grange Rd, Alphington  
T 9497 2078  
[smartstartchildcare.com.au](http://smartstartchildcare.com.au)
- 35 Smith Street Children's Centre & Kinder**  
200 Smith St, Thornbury  
T 9480 1023 [careforkids.com.au](http://careforkids.com.au)
- 36 Starfish Early Learning Centre**  
17 Rosenthal Cres, Reservoir  
T 1300 168 881  
[starfishelc.com.au](http://starfishelc.com.au)
- 37 Sunrise Preschool & Long Day Care**  
63 Woolton Ave, Thornbury  
T 9484 9982  
[sunrisepreschool.vic.edu.au](http://sunrisepreschool.vic.edu.au)
- 38 The Bridge, Preston**  
218 High St, Preston  
T 9484 5806 [bridge.org.au](http://bridge.org.au)
- 39 The Bridge, Thornbury**  
131 Shaftesbury Pde, Thornbury  
T 9480 0466 [bridge.org.au](http://bridge.org.au)
- 40 The Hive Early Learning**  
260-264 Arthur St, Fairfield  
T 1300 000 843 [thehiveelc.com.au](http://thehiveelc.com.au)
- 41 Thornbury Learning Centre**  
52 Speight St, Thornbury  
T 9480 4288  
[thornburylearningcentre.com.au](http://thornburylearningcentre.com.au)
- 42 Thornbury World of Learning**  
80-82 Wilmoth St, Thornbury  
T 9480 2111  
[worldoflearning.com.au](http://worldoflearning.com.au)
- 43 Time Out Educare**  
26-28 Pearl St, Northcote  
T 9486 7411  
[timeouteducare.com.au](http://timeouteducare.com.au)
- 44 Time-Out Child Care Centre**  
38 Arthurton Rd, Northcote  
T 9486 7411  
[timeoutchildcare.com.au](http://timeoutchildcare.com.au)
- 45 Tree House Early Learning, Preston**  
418 Murray Rd Preston  
T 9471 1115  
[melbournechildcare.com](http://melbournechildcare.com)
- 46 Victoria Street Early Learning & Kinder**  
54 Victoria St, Preston  
T 9484 2333  
[victoriastreetelc.com.au](http://victoriastreetelc.com.au)
- 47 Wonder World Play Centre, Childcare & Kindergarten**  
399A Murray Rd, Preston  
T 9478 4433  
[wonderworldplaycentre.com.au](http://wonderworldplaycentre.com.au)
- 48 Wood Street Childcare Centre**  
272 Wood St, Preston  
T 9471 1755  
[woodstreetccc.com.au](http://woodstreetccc.com.au)
- 49 Yappera Children's Service Cooperative Ltd**  
2B Watt St, Thornbury  
T 9416 8787 [careforkids.com.au](http://careforkids.com.au)
- 50 YMCA Northcote Aquatic Centre**  
180 Victoria Rd, Northcote  
T 9486 7200  
[northcote.ymca.org.au](http://northcote.ymca.org.au)

● Long Day Care ● Occasional Care

# QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CONSIDERING CHILD CARE FOR YOUR CHILD

To decide which child care option is suitable for you and your child, the following questions might be helpful:

- Are places available for the day/s and hour/s I need?
- Does the service operate throughout the year or only during school terms?
- What are the values and philosophies of the child care centre's staff about caring for and educating children?
- What are the fees?
- Is there a fee to be placed on the child care centre's waiting list?
- How does the program meet the different needs, interests or experiences of children?
- How does the child care centre support children with additional needs?
- Will the same staff consistently care for my child?
- What is the process if my child is unwell, upset or unsettled?
- How are food and drink provided for the children?
- What are the sleeping arrangements for the children?

## Child care fees

The fees you pay for your child to attend a child care centre are set independently by each individual child care centre. There are several factors that influence the child care fees charged, as every child care centre provides a different level of service. Some child care centres provide meals, nappies and educational activities or incursions, while others don't. Factors such as the location and facilities of the child care centre also impact on the fees charged. All of these varying factors mean that child care centre fees are not the same.

For up to date information on centre fees, please visit the MyChild website and search by the name of the centre. [www.mychild.vic.gov.au](http://www.mychild.vic.gov.au)

## Assistance with the cost of child care

Long Day Care and Family Day Care services must be approved child care services with the Australian Government. This means that families using these services may be eligible for assistance with the cost of child care for their children.

Child Care Subsidy is the new payment from the Australian Government which will replace the Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate from 2 July 2018. The Child Care Subsidy will be paid directly to the child care service and passed on to the family as a reduction in the fees that they have to pay. The Child Care Subsidy is income tested. In addition to income testing, an activity test and the type of child care service used will determine a family's level of Child Care Subsidy.

To be eligible for the new Child Care Subsidy, parents or guardians must meet the following requirements:

- Your child must be 13 or under and not attending secondary school
- Your child must meet the immunisation requirements
- You and your partner (if applicable) must meet the residency requirements.

## What are the immunisation requirements for the Child Care Subsidy?

In order to be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy, under the *No Jab No Pay* legislation, families must ensure their children meet the immunisation requirements which now apply for all children up to the age of 19. A child must be fully immunised, or on a catch-up schedule according to the current Australian Immunisation Handbook or have a valid exemption in order to receive these payments.

## Immunisation Given Overseas

Child care centres require a record of your child's immunisation history. If your child has received immunisations overseas, you can bring your overseas records to Council's Immunisation Service Office.

### Darebin Immunisation Service

270 Gower Street, Preston VIC 3072

Phone: 8470 8562

Hours: 9.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday

They will provide:

- Immunisation certificates for children who were immunised overseas
- Free catch up vaccines for those requiring additional immunisations according to the current Australian Immunisation Handbook

Council also provides open immunisation sessions on weekdays, evenings and weekends. The Immunisation Program is available on the Darebin website at [www.darebin.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/immunisation). An appointment is not necessary to attend any of these sessions. Immunisation is free if you are an overseas student or do not hold a Medicare card. There are no fees for vaccines.



# QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CONSIDERING CHILD CARE FOR YOUR CHILD

## Priority of access guidelines for allocating child care places

Child care places are made in line with the Australian Government Priority of Access Guidelines, which all services are required to comply with. Your preferred child care centre may have a waiting list. To ensure that allocation of places is fair, the following priorities are applied:

- **Priority 1:** a child at risk of serious abuse or neglect
- **Priority 2:** a child of a single parent or parents who satisfy the work/training/study test under Section 14 of the 'A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999'
- **Priority 3:** any other child.

## Further information

For further information regarding child care, subsidies, immunisation requirements and priority of access, please refer to the following websites:

[www.mychild.gov.au](http://www.mychild.gov.au)

[www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit)

[www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-rebate](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-rebate)

[www.vic.gov.au/news/no-jab-no-play](http://www.vic.gov.au/news/no-jab-no-play)

[www.education.gov.au/ChildCarePackage](http://www.education.gov.au/ChildCarePackage)

[www.education.gov.au/priority-filling-child-care-places](http://www.education.gov.au/priority-filling-child-care-places)

## Child Care in Darebin

There are more than 41 child care centres in the City of Darebin. A list of centres is provided in this brochure and also available at:

- Darebin Community Directory
- My Child Website: [www.mychild.gov.au](http://www.mychild.gov.au)

## Darebin Child Care Registration System for participating services

Darebin City Council takes registrations on behalf of ten participating community managed services in the municipality. These services are operated by a Committee of Management or Early Years Management organisation. These services are:

- Annie Dennis Children's Centre
- Clifton Street Children's Centre
- Darebin Childcare and Kindergarten - Reservoir
- Darebin Childcare and Kindergarten - Preston
- Merri Community Childcare Centre and Kindergarten
- Merrilands Children's Centre and Kindergarten
- Nara Community Early Learning Centre
- Perry Street Childcare Centre & Elizabeth Gorman Memorial Kindergarten
- Oakhill Children's Centre
- Raleigh Street Child Care Centre

Council provides the Child Care Registration System to simplify the process of applying for the participating centres and apply equity and fairness processes for families seeking child care places.





## QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CONSIDERING CHILD CARE FOR YOUR CHILD



### Child Care Vacancies

Child care centre vacancies vary and can occur at any time throughout the year. Each individual child care centre determines the number of vacancies it has based on the age of the child, the licensed/operational capacity of the centre and the different rooms within the centre.

### How to apply for the Darebin Child Care Registration System?

Families are able to apply to the child care waiting list after the birth of their child. It's important to contact and visit centres to understand their individual service models, fees and policies.

Families can access the Child Care Registration System on the Darebin City Council website: [www.darebin.vic.gov.au/childcare](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/childcare)

Note: Completion of the application form does not guarantee placement and we recommend you explore all child care options in the area.

### How to apply for all other centres in the City of Darebin?

Council does not provide a registration system on behalf of all child care centres in the City of Darebin. There are a further 31 child care centres in Darebin that are not included in the Darebin Child Care Registration System. If your preferred child care centre is not included in the list above, you will need to contact the centre directly for further information regarding their service, fees and to organise a time to visit.



Share your feedback about your experience with our service. Darebin City Council welcomes your feedback whether it's a compliment, suggestion or a complaint. You can contact us in a number of ways;

Visit [darebin.vic.gov.au/global/contactus](http://darebin.vic.gov.au/global/contactus) and complete an online form which will be forwarded to an appropriate Council officer for action; or

Visit one of our Customer Service Centres:

**Preston Customer Service Centre**

Address: 274 Gower Street, Preston  
Opening Hours: 8.30am–5.00pm,  
Monday to Friday

**Northcote Customer Service Centre**

Address: 32-38 Separation Street, Northcote  
Opening Hours: 8.30am–5.00pm,  
Monday to Friday

**Reservoir Community and Learning Centre**

Address: 23 Edwardes Street, Reservoir  
Opening Hours: 10am–5.00pm,  
Monday to Friday

## CONTACT US

274 Gower Street, Preston  
PO Box 91, Preston, Vic 3072  
T 8470 8888  
F 8470 8877  
E [mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au)  
[darebin.vic.gov.au](http://darebin.vic.gov.au)



**National Relay Service**

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service. [relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)



**Speak Your Language**

T 8470 8470

العربية	Italiano
繁體中文	Македонски
Ελληνικά	Soomalii
हिंदी	Tiếng Việt