

EARLY YEARS e-RESOURCE



Western Child Family Services Alliance 2012

An e-Resource of Early Years Services for all professionals who work with vulnerable children & their families within the Local Government Areas of Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Hobson's Bay and Wyndham.

Tertiary Services

Child Protection 4

Secondary Services 5

Child FIRST-Intake for Child Family Services 6

Community Health Services 7

Enhanced Maternal and Child Health 7

Mother Baby Unit 8

Early Parenting Centre 8

HIPPY-Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters 8

ECIS- Early Childhood Intervention Services 8

Family & Parenting Support Services 9

Universal Services

Maternal and Child Health 10

New Parent Groups 10

Breast Feeding Support 10

Play groups 10

Occasional Care 11

Family Day Care 11

Long Day Care- Child Care 11

Links to Child Care Services and Funding Information 12

Inclusion Support Agency 12

Kindergarten 13

Assistance for Children with Special Needs 14

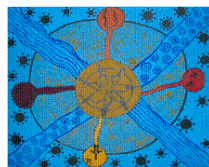
Toy Library 14

Indigenous Early Years Services 14

Early Years Checklist 15, 16

Early Years Resource Links 17

Western Child Family Services Alliance



**MacKillop
Family Services**

Members

Tertiary Services

A referral to Child FIRST or Child Protection?

When to call Western Child FIRST / Family Services

- Significant parenting problems affecting the child's development
- Significant social or economic disadvantage including homelessness which may impact on child's care or development
- Serious family conflict including family breakdown
- Families under pressure due to a family member's physical or mental illness, bereavement, disability or substance abuse.
- Young, isolated or unsupported families.

Telephone Western Child FIRST during business hours on **1300 775 160**

Outcome of Child FIRST Assessment:

At the end of the assessment a Child FIRST intake worker will inform you and the family of the outcome of their involvement.

Child Protection Services

Specialised Children's Counselling

Protecting Children, Changing Lives

When to call Child Protection

- Serious physical abuse or non-accidental injury to a child or young person
- Serious family violence or parental substance misuse, psychiatric illness or intellectual disability – where there is likelihood of significant harm to the child
- A disclosure of sexual abuse by a child or witness to that abuse
- Serious emotional abuse and ill treatment of a child impacting on the child's healthy development
- Persistent neglect, poor care or lack of appropriate supervision, where there is likelihood of significant harm to the child
- Where a child's actions or behaviours may place them at risk of significant harm or the child appears to have been abandoned.

Telephone North West Child Protection Intake Service during business hours on **1300 369 536 or 131278** (after hours)

Secondary Services
Child FIRST

DHS REGION	Local Government Area	Contact Number
Barwon South Western	Greater Geelong, Queenscliff, Surf Coast, Colac-Otway, Corangamite, Warrnambool, Moyne, Glenelg, Southern Grampians.	1300 551 948 (03) 5232 5500 1300 889 713
Eastern Metropolitan	Yarra Ranges, Knox, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse, Manningham, Boroondara.	1300 369 146
Gippsland	East Gippsland, Wellington, La Trobe, Baw Baw, South Gippsland, Bass Coast.	(03) 5152 0052 (03) 5144 7777 1800 339 100 (03) 5662 5150
Grampians	Northern Grampians, West Wimmera, Hindmarsh, Yarriambiak, Horsham. Ararat, Pyrenees, Hepburn, Ballarat, Golden Plains, Moorabool.	1800 195 114 1300 783 341
Hume	Wodonga, Towong, Indigo Alpine, Benalla, Mansfield, Wangaratta. Greater Shepparton, Strathbogie, Moira, Mitchell, Murrundindi.	1800 705 211 1800 354 944 1800 663 107
Loddon Mallee	Greater Bendigo, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Loddon, Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander. Buloke, Gannawarra, Swan Hill, Mildura.	1800 260 338 1300 665 218
North West Metropolitan	Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Banyule, Yarra and Darebin. Brimbank Melton. Hume Moreland. Hobson's Bay, Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Wyndham.	(03) 9450 0955 1300 138 180 1300 786 433 1300 775 160
Southern Metropolitan	Casey, Cardinia, Greater Dandenong. Indigenous Families (Casey, Cardinia, Greater Dandenong. Frankston, Mornington Peninsula. Kingston, Bayside, Glen Eira, Stonnington, Port Phillip.	(03) 9705 3939 (03) 9794 5973 1300 721 383 1300 367 441

Child FIRST

Western Child FIRST is the central intake for Family Services; it provides an initial assessment of family's needs and risks determining eligibility for Family Services. Child FIRST provides information and referral for vulnerable children, young people and families. Referrals can be accepted for families with children 0 to 17 years of age, including unborn children.

Western Child FIRST provides a gateway to Family Service providers that work with families who require support and assistance with:

Child First can:	Family Services can:
Provide information and advice to families and professionals;	Strengthen parenting skills;
Accept referrals for vulnerable children and their families who need support or where there are concerns about children's wellbeing;	Provide strategies to managing children's behaviour;
Provide any initial support or assistance;	Assist with building strong parent – child relationships;
Discuss with families and referrers what support is needed;	Deal with the impact of family violence, mental health, substance abuse or other significant difficulties;
Provide access to a Family Service in their area;	Provide advocacy and connection to the community.
Consult with the Aboriginal Liaison worker and other culturally specific services to ensure that responses to families are culturally sensitive;	Consult with the Aboriginal Liaison worker and other culturally specific services to ensure that responses to families are culturally sensitive;
Collaborate with the Community Based Child Protection Worker when there are significant concerns for the safety of a child or young person.	Collaborate with the Community Based Child Protection Worker when there are significant concerns for the safety of a child or young person.

Western Child FIRST accept referrals from parents, family members, friends and other professionals such as Child Protection, Maternal Child Health, schools, hospitals, mental health services or drug and alcohol services.

Referrals are made over the telephone by telephoning: **1300 775 160** 9.00 am - 5.00 pm Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays).

Child FIRST

Child FIRST will discuss with you whether you have consent of the family to make the referral, this is preferable as it often leads to better outcomes for the child or young person if the family has consented and is able to participate in the referral process. Where professionals have significant concerns about the wellbeing of children and young people details of the referrer can be protected.

Mandatory Reporting

Some Professionals such as doctors, nurses, police and school teachers are legally obliged to report suspected child abuse. In addition, any person who believes on reasonable grounds that a child needs protection can make a report to the Victorian Child Protection Service.

It is a duty of care by all professionals who work with children to assess and, where necessary, make a report if it is suspected that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm.

[How to make a Child FIRST Referral](#)

[Child Family Services](#)

Community Health Services

Community health centres operate across the state and aim to provide a broad range of services and health promotion activities to local populations, particularly those who have or are at risk of the poorest health and have the greatest economic and social needs.

Community health services sit alongside general practice and privately funded services, and other health and support services, to make up the majority of the primary health sector in Victoria. State-funded primary health care predominantly refers to dental, allied health, counselling, nursing services and health promotion.

[North Yarra Community Health Service](#)

[ISIS Primary Care](#)

[Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services \(0-18\)](#)

[Gatehouse Centre for Adolescents](#)

[Doutta Galla Community Health Centre](#)

[Western Region Health Centre](#)

Enhanced Maternal & Child Health

Enhanced Maternal and Child Health is part of the Maternal and Child Health service, however it is designed to provide extra support for families who require in-home support.

Maternal and Child Health Nurses and Parent Support Workers work within the program to support families who are unable to access their local Maternal and Child Health Nurse for issues such as key age and stages visit, where post natal depression may impact on the mothers ability to parent, sleep and settling, feeding and nutrition or any other parenting concerns.

Inclusion within this program is via a referral system; however individual services may have differing referral pathways. It is advisable to contact your local Maternal and Child Health Service for further individual information.

[Hobson's Bay Council](#)

[Maribyrnong Council](#)

[City of Melbourne](#)

[Moonee Valley Council](#)

[Wyndham Council](#)

Mother Baby Unit

Mother and Baby Units provide a residential respite service for mothers and infants, where the mother is diagnosed as suffering from Post Natal Depression or other mental health issues, maternal exhaustion, infant sleeping problems, feeding difficulties, reflux or colic and unsettled or irritable infants. A referral is requested from a Health Professional and not all Services require private health insurance.

[Austin Health](#)

[Werribee Mercy Health](#)

[Peninsula Health Rosebud](#)

[Mitcham Private Health](#)

[North Park](#)

[Masada Private](#)

Early Parenting Centre

Early Parenting Centres provide support and counselling for families of vulnerable or at risk children. Early parenting centres offer a range of specialised support, counseling, psychology and advice services aimed at supporting parents who need additional support to care for their infant/toddler. The services are focused on: building parenting capacity and skills, enhancing the parent/child relationship, strengthening a family's link with their community.

[O'Connell Family Centre](#)

[Queen Elizabeth Centre](#)

[Tweddle Child Family Service](#)

HIPPY – Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters Early Childhood Intervention Services

[Hippy Australia](#)

Early Childhood Intervention Services

Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) provide support to children and their families with a disability or developmental delay from birth to school entry. ECIS provides special education, therapy, counselling, service planning and coordination, assistance and support to access services such as kindergarten and child care. These services are funded through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and provided by Specialist Children's services teams and Early Childhood Intervention agencies.

[ECIS Central Intake](#)

[Specialist Children's Services North West](#)

[Melton Council Early Intervention Services](#)

[Noah's Ark Inc.](#)

[Scope Victoria North West](#)

[Uncle Bob's Child Development Centre](#)

[Yooralla](#)

Family & Parenting Support Services

Parenting Services provide support and information to families on child development, including feeding, sleep settling, language development, play and behavior. Support is available during playgroups, parenting information sessions and at individual appointments. Family support services provide free personal, practical and social support to families with children.

[City of Melbourne Parenting Services](#)

[City of Melbourne Family Support & Counselling](#)

[City of Moonee Valley Family Support Services](#)

[Time Out](#)

[Tuning Into Kids](#)

[Family & Relationship Services Australia](#)

[Melbourne City Mission Young & Pregnant Parenting Program](#)

[Drummond Street Services](#)

Universal Services

[Locate your nearest Early Childhood Centre or School](#)
[Priority of Access to Early Childhood Services](#)

Maternal and Child Health

Maternal and Child Health is a primary service usually located within the Local Government Area (LGA). This is a free service provided to parents of infants and babies from birth to school age. The service offers support to families in parenting, maternal and family wellbeing, health and development of the infant or child, safety and provides linkages to other health professionals and local communities.

[Hobson's Bay Council Maternal & Child Health](#)
[Maribyrnong Council Maternal & Child Health](#)
[City of Melbourne Maternal & Child Health](#)
[Moonee Valley Council Maternal & Child Health](#)
[Wyndham Council Maternal & Child Health](#)

New Parent Groups

First time Parent groups are offered to all new Parents in Victoria through the Maternal and Child Health Service, which is funded by state and local governments. Parents who join a group attend a series of eight sessions that emphasize parenting skills, relationship development and social support in order to increase confidence and skills in parenting. Contact local Maternal and Child Health Service regarding groups.

Breastfeeding Support

[Australian Breastfeeding Association](#)
[The Royal Women's Hospital Breastfeeding Support](#)

Playgroups

Playgroups and parent groups are designed to provide families with the opportunity to get together and have fun. Children can experience socializing with other children and learn as they play. Parents also have the opportunity to develop friendships and be supported as they transition to parenthood and meet the challenge of parenting as their children move through the different ages and stages.

[Playgroup Victoria](#)
[Hobson's Bay Playgroups](#)
[Maribyrnong Playgroups](#)
[City of Melbourne Playgroups](#)
[Moonee Valley Playgroups](#)
[Wyndham Playgroups](#)

Occasional Care

Occasional care is provided in a range of settings on either an hourly basis, or for short periods of time, or at irregular intervals specifically for parents who need time to attend appointments, take care of personal matters, undertake casual or part-time employment, study or have temporary respite from full-time parenting. These services provide developmental activities for children and are aimed primarily at 0–6 year olds. Occasional care is a licensed service and regulated by the Victorian Children's Services Act 1996 and Children's Services Regulations 2009.

[Hobson's Bay Occasional Care](#)

[Maribyrnong Occasional Care](#)

[City of Melbourne Occasional Care](#)

[Moonee Valley Occasional Care](#)

[Wyndham Occasional Care](#)

Family Day Care

Family day care is provided within the homes of individual qualified carers. Care is provided for infants and children from birth to five years old, and primary school age children. Care may also be provided during weekends or overnight but check with the care provider. Family Day Care is a regulated and licensed service governed by the Children's Services Act 1996 and Children's Services Regulations 2009. Family Day Care is an approved Early Years' Service for Child Care Benefits.

[Family Day Care](#)

[Australian's Children's Education & Care Quality Authority](#)

[Family Assist](#)

[Hobson's Bay Family Day Care](#)

[Maribyrnong Family Day Care](#)

[Melbourne City Family Day Care](#)

[Moonee Valley Family Day Care](#)

[Wyndham Family Day Care](#)

Long Day Care

Long day care or child care is primarily offered within regulated centres for children birth to six years old in group settings. Care is provided by qualified staff and offers education based programs with the emphasis on the developmental needs, interests and experiences of the individual child. Most centres operate for eight hours per day Monday to Friday. All centres must operate within the government regulations and guidelines to meet the Commonwealth Governments Quality Improvement and Accreditation System accreditation. If these standards are met by the centre they are awarded a Certificate of Accreditation which must be displayed. To maintain their licence the centres must operate within Victorian Children's Services Act 1996 and Children's Services Regulations 2009. Kindergarten programs are also available within some long daycare centres.

[Hobson's Bay Child Care](#)

[Maribyrnong Child Care](#)

[City of Melbourne Child Care](#)

[Moonee Valley Child Care](#)

[Wyndham Child Care](#)

Links to Childcare and Funding Information

[Finding Child Care Search Tool](#)

[Find an Early Childhood Service](#)

[Child Care Access Hotline](#)

[Child Care Connection](#)

Childcare Rebate

To find an approved Child Care service in your area, call 1800 670 305 or search [My Child](#)

[What is registered Child care?](#)

[Support for Families & Child Care](#)

If you are seeking further information concerning the Child Care Rebate or Child Care Benefit, please contact your nearest Family Assistance Office on 13 61 50 or [Your Nearest Centrelink](#).

Inclusion Support Agency

The Inclusion Support Program provides assistance to child care services to include children with additional needs in child care. Under the Program, 67 regionally based Inclusion Support Agencies (ISAs) manage networks of skilled Inclusion Support Facilitators (ISFs) to work at a local level with child care services. ISFs assist child care services to build their skill base and capacity to include children with additional needs. The target groups for inclusion support are:

- children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, including children from a refugee or humanitarian intervention background;
- children with ongoing high support needs, including children with a disability;
- Indigenous children.

[Noah's Ark Inc.](#)

Kindergarten

Attending kindergarten is an important step for your child. It will help them learn skills that they will build on throughout their life. Children attend kindergarten in the year before school, usually when they are four years old. However, some services and centres also offer kindergarten programs for three-year-old children. At kindergarten your child will grow socially and emotionally. Their ability to think, use and recognise language and fine motor skills will be developed through play, art, dance, music and movement. Most importantly, your child will be learning to become an effective learner as they develop and extend their communication skills, build their self-confidence, learn to be creative, and develop skills that assist them with reading, writing and mathematics.

[Three Year Old Kindergarten - Early Start Kindergarten](#)

[My Child](#)

[Hobson's Bay Council Kindergartens](#)

[Maribyrnong- ECMS](#)

[City of Melbourne Preschools](#)

[Moonee Valley Council 3 year old Kindergarten Application](#)

[Moonee Valley 4 year old Application](#)

[Wyndham 3 year old Kindergarten](#)

[Wyndham 4 year old Kindergarten](#)

Assistance for Children with Special Needs

The Victorian Government is committed to delivering an inclusive early childhood and school system that ensures that all families and their children have access to quality services and supports to meet their needs – no matter what your family's circumstances or background. This includes families whose children have severe disabilities and developmental delays, and refugee and asylum seeker families.

[Kindergarten Inclusion Support for Children with Severe Disabilities](#)

[Kindergarten Inclusion Support Kits](#)

[Pre School Field Officer Program](#)

[Support for Refugee and Asylum Seeker Families](#)

[Early Childhood Intervention Services](#)

[Kindergarten Fee Subsidy](#)

Assistance for Children with Special Needs

The Victorian Government is committed to delivering an inclusive early childhood and school system that ensures that all families and their children have access to quality services and supports to meet their needs – no matter what your family's circumstances or background. This includes families whose children have severe disabilities and developmental delays, and refugee and asylum seeker families.

[Kindergarten Inclusion Support for Children with Severe Disabilities](#)

[Kindergarten Inclusion Support Kits](#)

[Pre School Field Officer Program](#)

[Support for Refugee and Asylum Seeker Families](#)

[Early Childhood Intervention Services](#)

[Kindergarten Fee Subsidy](#)

Toy Library

Toy Libraries provide families with the opportunity to borrow a variety of toys to augment play activities for the child. Most services incur a small fee. For more information contact your Local Council.

[Hobson's Bay Council Toy Library](#)

[Maribyrnong Council Toy Library](#)

[Moonee Valley Council Toy Library](#)

Indigenous Early Years Services

[Indigenous Maternal Health Services](#)

[Indigenous Early learning and Home Based Support](#)

[Funded 3 and 4 year old Kindergarten](#)

[Koori Pre School Assistants and Early Childhood Officers](#)

[Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency](#)

[The Gathering Place](#)

[Indigenous Early Childhood](#)

Early Years Services Checklist

Type of Service	Contact Details	Details
Tertiary Services		
Child Protection		
Secondary Services		
Child First		
Specialist Children's Services		
Early Parenting Centre		
Enhanced Maternal & Child Health		
Medical Practitioners		
Health Services		
Mother Baby Unit		
Universal Services		
Parent Groups		

Type of Service	Contact Details	Details
Playgroup		
Toy Library		
Parenting Groups		
Family Day Care		
Occasional Care		
Long Day Care		
3 year old kindergarten		
4 year old kindergarten		
Lactation Consultant		
Indigenous Networks		

Early Years Resource Links

click on images below for links



Raising Children



Royal Children's hospital



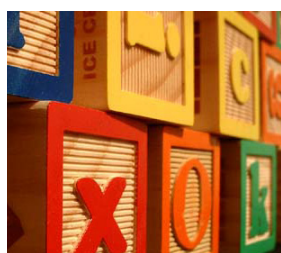
Breastfeeding



Better Health Channel



Department of human services



Australian Childhood Foundation



Early Childhood Australia



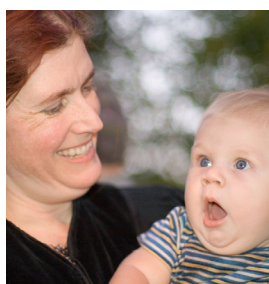
Child and Youth Health



Goforyourlife



Kidsafe Victoria



Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development



Maribyrnong City Council



Early Childhood Intervention Australia

Photos

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/iboy/6121306677/> By Ernst Vikne, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nojhan/754352020/> By nojhan, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/seandreiling/494107947/> By Sean Dreiling, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/heyipaul/1832148/> By Hey Paul, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/30816202@N02/4813267028/> By biofriendly, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mylissa/2655516570/> By mylissa, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mikecogh/5346089080/> By Michael Coghlan, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zetotal/3715888874/> By Rodrigo Amorim, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/oceanyamaha/231087006/> By Joshin Yamada, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lindseygee/5989069165/> By Lindsey G, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/barelyfitz/16154197/> By Patrick Fitzgerald, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/emeryjl/2103339575/> by James Emery, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cmcbrien/5406245416/> By Chris McBrien, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/leehaywood/5153589101/> By Lee Haywood, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/l2f1/3747255977/> By Glen, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gozalewis/3653339848/> By timlewisnm