

MEDIA RELEASE

6 May 2022

Two years of kinder bring learning benefits

Photo opportunity: (tbc – time arranged or photos supplied)

What: Children and teachers at a Mt Alexander kindergarten

Where: tbc

Research shows that engaging children in high quality learning experiences benefits all children and their families. And the evidence shows that two years are better than one, when it comes to early learning.

“These vital years of kindergarten can improve a child’s learning and development, emotional wellbeing and their longer-term educational and social outcomes,” said Ash Hunter, Y Kinders’ Area Director for the Mt Alexander region.

With 90% of a child’s brain developing by the time that they’re 5 years old, being in stimulating environments and being engaged in a range of educational, creative and interactive activities is crucial.

Y Kinders manages 5 kindergartens in the Mt Alexander region; Castlemaine and South Castlemaine Kindergartens and Harcourt, Maldon and Newstead Preschools.

All Y Kinders in Mt Alexander Shire will offer 15 hours per week of funded 3 year old kindergarten in 2023, meaning that the fees for these sessions are subsidised by the government, the same as the 4 year old program. There are also other options for some families to offset the non-funded costs of the 3 year old program, for example, for those holding Health Care Cards.

These Y Kinders will all be holding Open Days during Education Week in May. The days and times are as follows:

Castlemaine Kindergarten: Wednesday 25th May; 3.00pm – 4.30pm

Harcourt Preschool: Thursday 26th May; 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Maldon Preschool: Wednesday 25th May; 9.30am – 11.30am

Newstead Preschool: Wednesday 25th May; 2.30pm – 4.30pm

South Castlemaine Kindergarten: Monday 23rd May; 9.00am – 11.00am

THE Y BALLARAT

Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat, VIC, 3350

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We believe in the power of
inspired young people

“Enrolment applications for 2023 are currently open online, and we encourage families to come along to the Open Days in May to visit the services and meet the staff,” Ms Hunter added. “Seeing a kindergarten on Open Day, gives families time to ask questions and get a real sense of the aspects that will appeal to their child.”

“Our kindergartens are very community focused and welcoming and are really looking forward to meeting new families. They offer rich, inclusive learning environments which support children’s development and early education.”

For more details or for enrolment information, families can give the Y Kinders’ enrolment team a call on 4311 1500 or visit the website ykinders.org.au.

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About the Y Kinders’ Early Years Management & the Y

At the Y, we believe in the power of inspired young people. The Y Ballarat’s services include: Children’s Services (including Early Years Management, Long Day Care and OSHC), and Youth and Community Programs.

We currently manage 88 Kindergartens across the state, in 21 local government areas delivering high quality learning programs to over 4,500 children.

Across the country, each year the Y has over 1 million participations in our youth specific programs and 8 million participations in our children’s programs including kindergartens, early learning centres, outside school hours care and vacation care.

As a movement, we provide a wide range of programs and services in over 500 communities across Australia, including rural and remote communities. The Y is a community not-for-profit and the oldest youth organisation in the world.

For further details visit: yballarat.org.au.

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