



## Increasing Kindergarten to 15 hours a week

### Why are Kindergarten hours being increased to 15 hours a week?

To make sure children have the best start to learning, the WA Government has signed an agreement with all other states/territories and the Australian Government to increase Kindergarten hours from 11 to 15 hours a week.

A child's learning experiences in the early years of life greatly affect how they learn and develop in the future. This is why early childhood education has become a priority across Australia.

Increasing Kindergarten hours means children have more time to learn important skills such as literacy and numeracy and to develop socially and emotionally. It may also make it easier for children as they go to full-time school.

### How will the increase to hours be implemented in Western Australia?

The increase in Kindergarten hours is for all schools – public and private. Certain schools have been selected to begin increasing hours in 2010, with others scheduled to follow.

### [Find out when your school is increasing Kindergarten hours](#)

Western Australia's public schools already offer Kindergarten for four half day sessions or two full day sessions a week which works out to around 11 hours a week. For most schools, the increase in hours will add a half day session each week.

Schools will make the change in different ways to best meet the needs of their communities.

### What other changes are happening?

The increase to 15 hours a week in Kindergarten is one of a number of changes over the next four years.

Currently, children may miss out on a place at their local public school if there have been too many applications for the number of places available.

Steps are now being taken to make sure all children are guaranteed a place in Kindergarten at their local public school from 2013. Until then, normal enrolment procedures apply.

We are also making sure all families are supported and encouraged to send their children to Kindergarten, particularly Aboriginal children, children from non-English speaking backgrounds and children with special educational needs.

