

Discover our new...

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE



Our brand new Early Learning Centre at Mernda Hills Christian College provides a Kindergarten program for three and four year old children, delivered within our long day care program.

We focus on developing the whole child within a values-based Christian environment. Throughout the year, the Centre will partner with our Primary school to facilitate a smooth transition to school.

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Our early learning team is passionate about providing young children with the best start to their education. We are excited to welcome our first group of students in the new year, and can't wait to support them as they learn together and grow with God.

Kristin Hankins
Principal

What your child will experience in our Early Learning program:

- A newly built Centre featuring bright, spacious classrooms, break out spaces and specialist rooms designed to support early childhood development
- A natural adventure playground with bike paths, water play, cubbies, vegetable gardens, mud kitchens and more, where children will enjoy endless fun and hands-on learning as they explore and connect with nature
- High-quality learning experiences led by passionate, skilled early childhood teachers focused on your child's growth and wellbeing
- Extra-curricular activities supported by Mernda Hills Christian College, including sport, music, languages, and arts
- Genuine care and strong relationships with your family, grounded in Christian values
- Accredited Early Years program meeting Education Victoria standards
- Tailored learning approach to support each child's smooth transition to Primary School
- Peaceful, nurturing learning environment
- Continuous education pathway from Early Learning through to Year 12



MERNDA HILLS
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Enrolments opening August!

Visit our website:

merndahills.vic.edu.au/elc

Have more questions?

We would love to hear from you! Please call **03 9717 7300** or email elc@merndahills.vic.edu.au and our Enrolments Officer will be in touch with you promptly.

In the meantime, the frequently asked questions (FAQ) below may answer some of your questions.



FAQS

Q: When will the Mernda Hills Christian College Early Learning Centre (ELC) open?

A: We intend to open our ELC from the week commencing Monday 12 January 2026. The exact date will be formalised by October 2025. We are accepting enrolments from August 2025.

Q: What will be your operating hours?

A: Our hours will be 7am-6pm, Monday - Friday.

Q: Will you be open during school holidays?

A: The ELC will be open 48 weeks of the year, including school holidays, but will close the day before Melbourne Cup Day and for 3.5 weeks over the Christmas break. The Centre will be closed on all public holidays.

Q: Are we a zoned school / ELC?

A: No, we are not zoned. We also welcome students from any location, culture and faith background.

Q: Will this ELC be government funded?

A: Yes, if you are eligible, you can apply through Centrelink for a childcare subsidy (CCS).

Q: What is the Childcare Subsidy (CCS)?

A: The CCS helps cover the cost of childcare, based on your income and activity level. It's paid directly to the provider, reducing your out-of-pocket fees.

Q: Will you offer free kinder?

A: Yes. We will offer an integrated kindergarten program. The free kinder subsidy is taken off your gap fee and is spread out over 48 weeks of the year. Your child can only be enrolled in funded kindergarten at one service at a time.

Q: Will there be a family discount?

A: Yes, the option for a reduction to College school fees is available for families who have children enrolled at the College and in Early Learning. Please note that this discount does not apply to ELC fees.

If your family has more than one child aged 5 or younger in the ELC, you may receive a higher Child Care Subsidy (CCS), provided through Centrelink.

For more information on fees, please visit our website.

Q: What age should my child start at the Early Learning Centre?

A: Children can start as soon as they turn 3, even if they turn 3 after the April 30 government cut off. Starting at this age gives children more time to grow socially and emotionally through play-based learning. It builds confidence and provides a strong foundation for skills like reading and writing. Our 3 year-old program helps children feel ready and resilient as they move into 4-year-old Kinder and Primary School.

If you have more questions regarding age, please call our Enrolments Officer on 9717 7300.

Q: What qualifications do your educators have, and what learning framework guides your program?

A: Our programs are led by qualified early childhood teachers (Bachelor degree) and supported by trained educators passionate about your child's learning and wellbeing. Our programming is in line with the VEYLDF (Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework).

Q: Why do we ask for a Health Assessment?

A: Health assessments help us better understand your child's development and ensure they receive any extra support or extension they may need.

Q: Does my child need to be toilet trained to attend the ELC?

A: No. Whilst it is helpful for your child to be toilet trained before they start, children are eligible to enrol and be part of the kindergarten program even if toilet training isn't something they have mastered yet.