

What's an approved kindy?

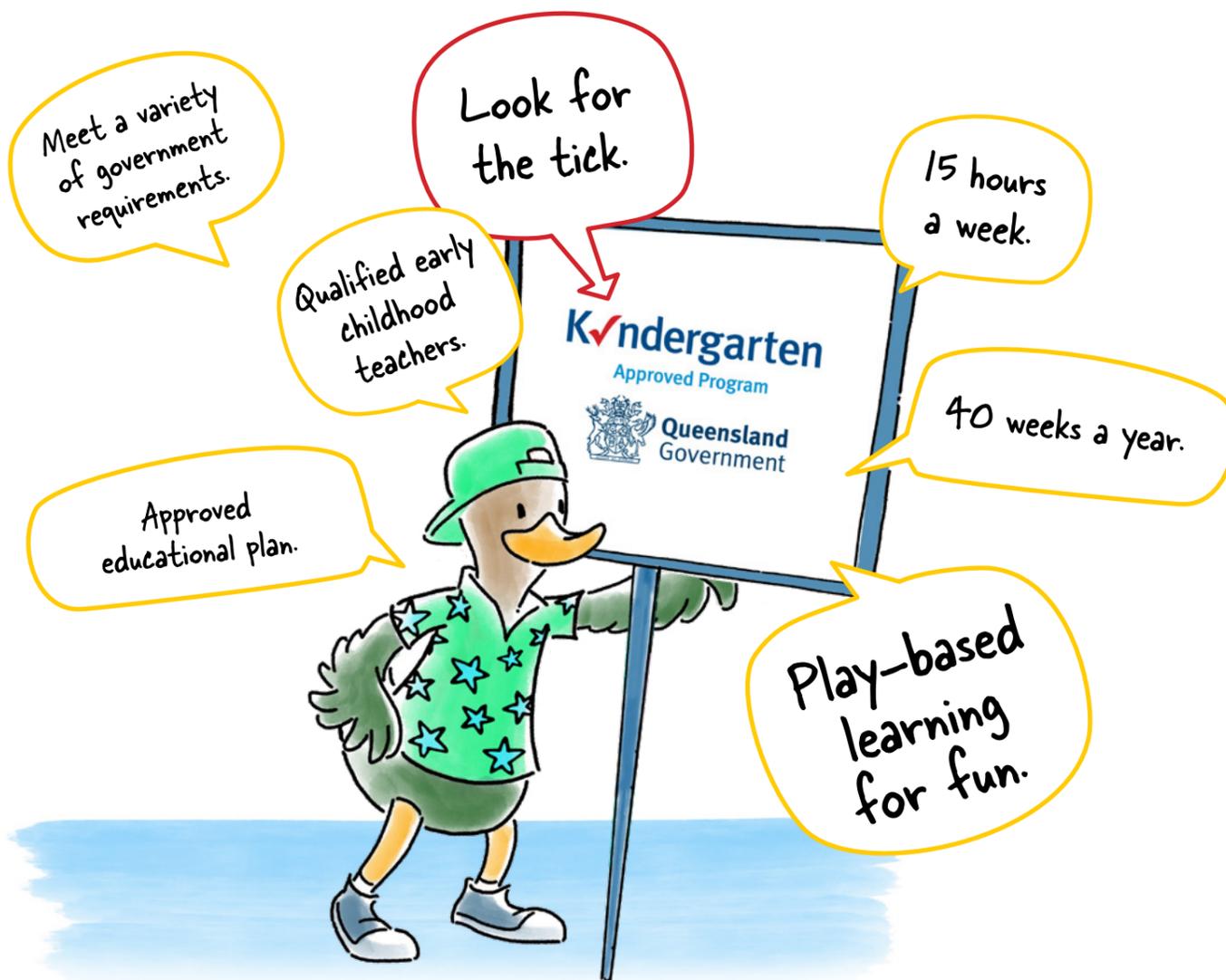
Look for an Approved Kindergarten Program

Children turning four by June 30, 2018, are eligible and encouraged to attend a quality kindergarten before they go off to big school.

They'll learn a whole lot of things that get them ready for school. But it's important to be sure your child is attending a venue offering an Approved Kindergarten Program.

Approved Kindergarten Programs are play-based learning programs delivered by **qualified early childhood teachers**, who work to an approved plan for educating children and getting them ready for school.

Approved Kindergarten Programs are delivered for 15 hours a week, 40 weeks of the year, and meet a whole lot of government requirements.



Not all kindy programs happen in a kindy.

Kindergartens and Long Daycare Centres are different but most Long Daycare Centres have Approved Kindergarten Programs delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher.

Kindergarten

Kindergartens offer 15 hours of education a week, 40 weeks of the year that usually fit in with state school terms.

Children usually attend a five-day fortnight or two long days a week.

A five-day fortnight might be from 8.30am - 2.30pm on Monday and Tuesday the first week and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the second week. An example of two long days would be 8.30am - 4.00pm Monday and Tuesday.

A child can go to kindy if they turn 4 by June 30 in the year they attend.

Long Daycare Centres

Long Daycare Centres provide education and care for children from birth to five years for up to 12 hours a day, Monday to Friday.

Age groups can vary from centre to centre and children are often grouped together according to their age or development stage. This can help them make the most of learning.

Operating hours can be different from one centre to another, but generally they open from 6.30am - 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, 52 weeks a year.



The National Quality Framework

To improve the quality of early childhood education and care services in Australia, the National Quality Framework sets standards around:

- the number of staff and their qualifications
- ensuring children's health and safety
- services space and layout, and
- the quality of developmental and learning experiences for children.

Services are rated according to these criteria so ask your kindy or Long Daycare Centre how they rate.

Whether you choose a kindergarten or a Long Daycare Centre, look for the tick.

