Does my child have to go to school?

In Tasmania, children are required to start school in the year they turn six (unless their birthday is on 1 January). However, many children start attending school part-time (called ‘kindergarten’) the year before this. Children must continue attending school until they are 17 years old.

The school year starts in February and ends in December. There are both public (government) schools and private schools in Tasmania. Most children of international students need to pay school fees, and fees at private schools are higher. Enrolling children at public schools is managed by Government Education and Training International (GETI). The GETI website provides more information on this.

What childcare options can I find in Tasmania?

For children under school age, the most common option is a day care centre. Day care centres are generally run by private operators or community organisations. Children are looked after in large groups (10 to 20 children) by several minders. There is very high demand for day care places, especially during university semesters, and costs are relatively high.

Another option is family day care. Children are looked after in a small group (one to five children) by the minder in the minder’s home. The cost of family day care is usually lower than a day care centre. You can find more information on these options, as well as possible places, at careforkids.com.au

What other activities are there for children?

Both Hobart and Launceston have many free parks and playgrounds, as well as various attractions for families.

Hobart City Council arranges low-cost school holiday activities for children to learn about the natural environment. There are also many regular and special events all around Tasmania which are suitable for families and children.

The Discover Tasmania website is a good place to find out what is happening.