

MILESTONE 4-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN & SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM

Milestone offers a 4-year-old kindergarten program with a qualified kinder teacher. This includes a comprehensive school readiness program. Our program runs all day from Monday to Friday. Children must attend a 4-year-old funded kindergarten at least 15 hours per week which can be achieved at Milestone over 2 full days.

Each child is observed & planned for, and their needs addressed, to prepare children for school. Our teacher is more than happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Teacher interviews take place twice a year, to discuss development in the year prior to school.

We believe that children learn best through play, so we incorporate those elements into our programs, and refrain from making children write their name or trace letters unless they show an interest.

When planning the children's activities, we aim to present a program that is structured to a certain extent, yet allows for a lot of choice, spontaneity and flexibility. Our kinder program prepares each child for the move to school, in a manner which is non-threatening and educational.

Play is the children's work through which they learn and make sense of the world around them. Play is also a process of development in everything a child does whereby a child's curiosity is fulfilled by use of fantasy, imagination, independence and sensory exploration.

Our play based curriculum is child-oriented; emerging from current interests, needs and developmental levels of the group. We provide an indoor/outdoor program where children can choose where they wish to play and explore. We find that kinder aged children learn most readily when the curriculum is relevant to their lives.



Our program is interactive and exploratory involving interaction with a rich variety of materials and equipment. We also incorporate as many 'real life' play experiences as possible into the program, e.g. home corner.

Our first priority is to instil a love and appreciation for meaningful learning, thus helping to ensure children reach their full potential in later years. It is through this child-oriented play based curriculum that children gain a range of social, emotional, cognitive, lingual and physical skills.

At Milestone, we do not focus on the alphabet or learning to write letters, names and numbers. The way we incorporate letters and numbers in our program is with experiences such as group games that include counting or recognising letters & numbers, singing songs and the letter of the week show and tell.

We don't have specific times in the day where we focus on academic skills or knowledge as we know that children learn all they need to know through play (with gentle intentional teaching by educators).



We like to encourage family participation across all aspects of our program. Families can contribute to our programs through many ways, such as parent duty, feedback and an open-door policy which allows families to come in to the centre to play or share a story, talent, cultural experience etc. We value contributions from families and part of our aim is to make your family feel that this is a home away from home.

Some of the areas that we focus on are:

Independence – e.g. getting the children to put their own belongings in their bags, self-serving themselves meals, using “real-life” objects in play

Social Interactions – e.g. helping the children solve problems during social interactions so they can negotiate their way out in the playground

School Readiness – e.g. providing the children with scissors, sticky tape, glue sticks, hole punchers etc.

Sustainability – e.g. growing our own produce, becoming environmentally responsible, recycling

By providing small group activities such as home corner and block corner, we believe this gives children the opportunity to work on social and problem solving skills like working out an issue between two or more children, turn taking, sharing etc.

Throughout the year, we provide numerous learning experiences that will assist children in the transition to school, such as:

- Responsible Pet Ownership incursion
- Lunch Box Days in term 4 where children bring lunch boxes to kinder & are familiarised on how to open wrappers, peel fruit, punch through straws etc.
- Cooking experiences
- ‘Letter of the Week’ show and tell
- Events and celebrations on our calendar of events
- Gardening and growing fruits, vegetables and herbs
- Free Hearing Screenings in term 3 by Knox Audiology
- Multicultural and community projects and discussions
- An end-of-year graduation ceremony

If you wish to have any further information, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you.

NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK

You may have heard about the National Quality Framework (NQF). The NQF covers most long day care, pre-school, outside school hours and family day care services across Australia.

The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) is the national body jointly governed by the Australian government and state and territory governments. As ACECQA will guide and oversee the implementation of the NQF, their website will be the primary source of information on the NQF.

Why do we need a National Quality Framework?

Early childhood experts and professionals maintain that quality is critical when it comes to early childhood education and care, particularly in the first five years of a child's life.

The NQF raises the quality of education and care across Australian services through the National Quality Standard. This is a standard that all services have to work to. The implementation of this framework meant increased educator to child ratios, qualification requirements and a national assessment and rating process. The NQF provides families with information on the quality of care to help them make informed choices about which service will best meet their needs.

The final version of the National Regulations is available through the ACECQA website at www.acecqa.gov.au

National Quality Standard

The National Quality Standard is divided into 7 Quality Areas:

- Educational program and practice
- Children's health and safety
- Physical environment
- Staffing arrangements
- Relationships with children
- Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- Leadership and service management.

The National Quality Standard aims to promote:

- The safety, health and wellbeing of children
- A focus on achieving outcomes for children through high-quality educational programs
- Families' understanding of what distinguishes a quality service.

National Quality Rating and Assessment Process

Services covered by the National Quality Framework are assessed and rated against each of the 7 Quality Areas of the National Quality Standard as well as the National Regulations. They will also be given an overall rating.

Rating Levels

There are 5 ratings under this system that a service can get against each Quality Area as well as the overall rating.

The rating levels are:

- Exceeding National Quality Standard
- Meeting National Quality Standard
- Working Towards National Quality Standard
- Significant Improvement Required

Services can apply to ACECQA for an *Excellent* rating.

Milestone was assessed in June 2013 and is officially '**Meeting the National Quality Standard**'. Best of all, we were rated '**Exceeding**' in 3 quality areas - Relationships with Children, Staffing Arrangements and Children's Health and Safety.

Service Approval
Number: SE-
00004788



Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development

Milestone Kindergarten & Early Childhood Centre

has achieved the following ratings:

Quality Area 1	Educational program and practice RATING: Meeting NQS
Quality Area 2	Children's health and safety RATING: Exceeding NQS
Quality Area 3	Physical environment RATING: Meeting NQS
Quality Area 4	Staffing arrangements RATING: Exceeding NQS
Quality Area 5	Relationships with children RATING: Exceeding NQS
Quality Area 6	Collaborative partnerships with families and communities RATING: Meeting NQS
Quality Area 7	Leadership and service management RATING: Meeting NQS

The overall rating for a service is determined by the combination of the Quality Area ratings achieved.

If a service is rated below the National Quality Standard in any Quality Area, the overall rating will reflect the lowest Quality Area rating. To achieve an overall rating of Exceeding National Quality Standard, a service needs to achieve Exceeding National Quality Standard in four or more Quality Areas of which two must be from Quality Area 1, Quality Area 5, Quality Area 6 or Quality Area 7.

This service is rated overall at

Meeting NQS

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Date of issue: 30 July 2013

This service has been assessed against the *National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care* and these ratings have been awarded in accordance with the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* and the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*

ASR-00002734

Department Reference Number