

Pre-School Program 2021

Welcome to the pre-school room! We've had to adapt our program and routine to meet current restrictions. We hope next year we will be able to return back to normal.

The pre-school room is for children who will be attending school in 2022. We also have children who may move up a little earlier from the kinder room once they turn 4 years old. Our room can cater for 33 children with a ratio of 1 educator to 11 children. Children need to be in attendance for a minimum of 2 days a week to meet the 15 hours of funded pre-school.

Vanessa and Kim are the pre-school teachers in the room. They both have their Bachelor of Early Childhood Education. The pre-school program runs Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 4.30pm, with family grouping either side of these times.

The pre-school program is guided by the centre philosophy, practices and principles, Early Years Learning and Development Framework, code of ethics and the National Quality Standard. We run a play-based program with an indoor-outdoor philosophy, which includes the children's interests, teacher intentional teaching moments, family and community involvement, calendar events and spontaneous moments.

In this area you will find our educational program, routine, calendar of events, menu & any information we add throughout the year as needed.

- We offer structured group times throughout the day that are planned and intentional where we may have discussions, read or tell stories, sing songs, and reflect on calendar events. This is also a good time to reflect on the work the children have been involved in during the day.



- We also have a family/community input board where families are welcome to add any special family events, outings or anything special happening at their house. Write it down on a post-it note and stick it on the board. We use this information to engage with the children in large group times as well as part of programming that connects home with pre-school life.

- We involve the children in all routines throughout the day which are seen as learning opportunities, e.g. lunch time monitors (preparing the lunches for all children), fish monitors, cleaning up after themselves and setting up for meal times. We have 'pre-school buddies' which are special toy animals that go to each child's home for the week, where they need to care and look after the toy animal and then return to pre-school. In a special folder, they record all their adventures and outings which they then share with the rest of the group.
- We use a mixture of observations to document your child's learning, through photo observations, language samples, art works, checklists and discussions with families. This is available for you to view throughout the year and to explore what your child has been learning at pre-school.
- We also complete regular summaries of your child's development as well as the school transition statements that are sent off in term 4 to your child's school. This is to prepare the school for your child so they can cater for your child's needs, learning styles and to ensure a smooth transition to school.
- We have contact with the pre-school field officers who are able to come out and provide observations and assistance to any child who may require additional support with their development, as well as a second opinion on a child's readiness for school.
- We do not allocate a certain week to hold the family/educator meetings. We can organise to have a meeting at any stage throughout the year at a family's request, or if the teachers feel a meeting may be required to discuss your child's progress at pre-school.
- During the year, the children participate in a variety of incursions, including Happy Feet (family choice), library visit, responsible pet ownership program, water safety, dental health, hearing checks (Knox Audiology), road safety, as well as the whole centre's calendar events.
- During Term 4, we implement a Lunch Box Day program where once a week, on a rotation, families provide their child with a lunch box with food for the day. This is a great learning opportunity for the children to practice opening and closing containers and wrappers and learning about healthy choice food. It is a vital part of our school readiness program.

Goals for the Children - What is 'School Readiness'?

On top of the children's own individual goals, there are a set of goals that we would like to see the children complete before they are ready for school, these include:

- Explore their environment on their own without educators by their side, within the indoor and outdoor environment.
- Easy separation in the morning, greeting educators, putting own bag away, and choosing an activity of choice.
- Problem solving skills - how do they manage a problem?
- Remember instructions and can follow directions.
- Demonstrate independence skills when choosing activities of interest.
- Develop self-help skills in toileting, hygiene and dressing self and looking after their belongings.
- Play and build relationships with peers and have fun.
- Explore new social boundaries, new behaviour limits and behaviour management techniques.
- Build resilience and self-esteem skills.
- Explore early literacy and numeracy skills, as well as music, movement, drama and science concepts
- Build self-regulation skills which are essential in the transition to school.
- Speech is understandable by others.
- Fine and gross motor coordination.
- Maturity level.
- Pack up after themselves – respect for equipment.

Communication

We send out information through a variety of communication techniques including through emails, Facebook messages, our room and centre Facebook pages, phone and we will also provide notices on the “**What's Happening in Pre-School**” board next to the room door.

If you are not on our Facebook page, you can send a friend request to us ‘**Milestone Preschool Room**’. Please note only parents of the child are accepted - no extended family members. We regularly use Facebook to communicate what the children have been up to as well as posting reminders or information regarding our program on a daily basis.



Choosing a school

If your child is attending school in 2022, we recommend that you visit the schools in the first half of the year (in 2021), as some schools commence their school transition days as early as July. If you are unsure about which school to attend, please feel free to come and have a chat with us. We also share information from the schools throughout the year.

What to Bring - Housekeeping

With having an indoor-outdoor philosophy, we require that you provide a jacket, boots and also a hat throughout the year for your child. (*Sunsmart Time - September to May, or whenever the UV is 3 or above.*)

We encourage independence and self-help skills so having named clothes is essential while the children are learning to look after their belongings. To support this practice at home, you could involve your child in putting the washing away, packing up toys or helping put dishes away.

We discourage children from bringing their own home toys. In the past, this has caused issues with the items being lost. Other children think how amazing they are and take them home.

If a child is bringing in an item as a form of security, which allows for a smoother arrival time, this is ok. However, there is a basket in the storeroom where these toys and items will be kept for the day, once the child is settled into the program.

Additional Information

We usually hold an information night where we discuss the program in more detail and answer any questions you may have. As we are unable to do this, we are hoping this newsletter has given you an insight into our program. Please feel free to email or speak to Kim/Vanessa regarding any additional information or questions you may have. We are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead full of enjoyment, engagement and learning.

Pre-School's Room Email Address: preschoolroom@live.com