

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM 2022

The majority of the children in the pre-school room will be moving off to primary school the following year. However, we also have children who may move up a little earlier from the Kinder room once they turn 4 years old or who are completing two years in the room.

Our room can cater for 33 children with a ratio of 1 educator to every 11 children. Children need to be in attendance for a minimum 2 days a week to meet the 15 hours of funded pre-school requirement.

Vanessa and Karen are the pre-school teachers in the room, supported by our assistants, Mona and Ashlea.

The pre-school program runs Monday to Friday, from 8.30 to 4:00pm, 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 (Identity, Community, Wellbeing, Learning, Communication), code of ethics and the National Quality Standard.

We run a play-based program with an indoor/outdoor program where children are able to access either space throughout the day. Our program includes children's interests and strengths, teacher intentional teaching moments, family and community involvement, calendar events and spontaneous moments. Our program provides lots of choice where children can include their own ideas and contributions to the program. Children engage daily in open-ended art experiences, dramatic play, drawing, writing, block construction and story reading.

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

We also have a family/community input board (template of a house, next to the educational program) where families are welcome to add any special family events, outings or anything special happening at your 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), cleaning up after themselves and setting up for meal times.*

In term 2, we introduce '*pre-school buddies*' which are special toy animals that go to each child's home for the week. The child needs to care and look after the toy animal

then return to pre-school. In a 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, artwork, checklists and discussions with families. This is available for you to view throughout the year to explore what your child has been learning at pre-school.

We also complete regular summaries on your child's development as well as the school transition statements that are sent off in term 4 to your child's primary 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.

On top of the transition statements, once your child is enrolled in a primary school, their new prep teacher will make contact with us via a phone call, email or a visit to the centre in the second half of the year. They do this to find out how they can support your child's transition to school and see if there is anything they need to be aware of in regards to your child's learning and development.

We also 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 support with their development, as well as to provide a second opinion on a child's readiness for school. They can provide any extra support for the child and the family including recommendations for occupational therapy, speech therapy and other allied health services.

We do not allocate a certain day or week to hold family/teacher meetings. We can organise to have a meeting at any stage throughout the year at a family's request, or if the teacher requires a meeting to discuss your child's progress at pre-school or to put strategies in place to support your child.

During the year, the children participate in a variety of incursions, including library visits, responsible pet ownership program, first aid for children, water safety, dental health, hearing checks (Knox Audiology), road safety, as well as the whole centre's calendar of events. Throughout the year, we recognise and implement special events such as Recycling Week, Book Week, Halloween, multicultural days and any other areas of interest that may come up throughout the year.

During Term 4, we implement a *Lunch Box Day* program where once a week on a rotation, you will provide your 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/ & wrappers, and learning about healthy choice foods.

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

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

- Explore the indoor and outdoor environments on their own without educators by their side.
- Easy separation in the morning, greeting educators, putting own bag away, choosing an activity of choice.
- Problem solving skills, how do they manage a problem?
- Remembering 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.
- To play and build relationships with peers and to 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, art and science concepts.
- Building self-regulation skills which is essential in the transition to school.
- Speech is understandable by others.
- Fine and gross motor coordination.
- Maturity level.
- Pack up after themselves and have respect for equipment.
- Love for learning and wanting to learn about their world around them.
- Develop concentration skills.
- Participate in a large group and play alongside others.
- Explore feelings and emotions – how to communicate our feelings to others and deal with frustrations in a positive way.

Communication

We send out information via Facebook Messenger and our room Facebook page. 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 any reminders or information regarding our program on a regular basis.

Choosing a school

If your child is attending school in 2023, we recommend that you visit primary schools in the first half of the year (in 2022), as enrolment forms need to be submitted to your preferred school around July. We also share information about local schools with you throughout the year.

What to Bring - Housekeeping

With having an indoor/outdoor program, we require your child to bring a jacket, gumboots and hat throughout the year (SunSmart season is from September to May). Also, at least 2 full changes of clothes daily are required, as children have the opportunity to explore play outside in the rain (yes, they can play in the rain!!).

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, pack up toys or help put dishes away!

We discourage children bringing their own home toys. In the past, this has caused issues with the items begin lost. Other children think they are amazing and try taking them home. If a child is bringing in an item as a form of security and it allows for a smoother arrival time, this is ok. Once the child is settled into the program, we will put this item in your child's bag.

Please feel free to email, message or speak to the pre-school team regarding any additional information or questions you may have about the pre-school program.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!

Pre-school's room email address:

preschoolroom@live.com