

GENERAL INFORMATION

What to bring!

Your child needs to bring.....

- **A hat.** Our preschool is a sun smart centre and children are required to wear hats when outside on days when the UV rating is above level 3
- **A bag.** A bag or backpack for children to keep their own belongings in.
- **Lunch and two pieces of fruit or vegetables** for a healthy snack. Some children also bring additional healthy snacks including cheese, biscuits, popcorn or yoghurt. .
- **A named drink bottle** filled with **WATER ONLY.** Please do not send cordial, fruit juice in a bottle or in a fruit box.
- **Some spare clothes** – just in case!

Please name all clothes and possessions, especially shoes, socks, hats, bags, drink and food containers.

Settling your child into kindergarten

Some children need a lot of reassurance to settle into kindergarten while others throw themselves wholeheartedly into experiences straight away. There are many individual differences. Whilst families know their child best, the teachers understand general patterns of behaviour, so between us an individual process for managing separation can be arranged.

Families are always welcome to stay at the kindergarten until they feel that their child is ready to stay without them. However, please be assured that staff are very experienced at sensitively handling any distress that children may experience when separating from a family member for the first time. Please have confidence in us!

In the “settling in” stage it is a good idea to leave a phone number where you can be reached, just in case! We will always ring you if your child does not settle quickly.

Should your child be upset when you leave, please do not hesitate to ring the centre when you get home for reassurance.

Children's Clothing

It is recommended that children wear clothes that allow them to be actively involved in all aspects of the kindergarten program. Smocks are provided but are not always sufficient protection for messy experiences. Clothing and shoes, which enable children to play safely and go to the toilet independently, are most suitable. Printed t-shirts and windcheaters with the kindergarten logo offer a good alternative (Staff will screen print these for a minimal cost of \$2 per item)

During the summer months we make maximum use of our water feature and sandpit. Children do get wet! Please be prepared for your child to be an active participant in this play and pack spare clothes.

Absences

Infections can be prevented from spreading if children are kept at home when they are unwell. If your child is unable to participate in all aspects of kindergarten program (that is, indoor and outdoor activities) please keep him/her at home. If your child will be absent from kindergarten, please ring the kindy to let us know. We have an answering machine where messages can be left after hours or a mobile phone if you would prefer to send a text. 0428 057 240. Please let us know if your child is suffering from any condition that is infectious.

Please do not bring an unwell child to kindergarten because s/he insists on coming. There are always children in the centre who may be susceptible to the simplest illness that you may unwittingly be exposing to him/her. Please refer to our infectious diseases policy for further information or ask a staff member if you are unsure.

Health Services

A variety of health services are available for children through the kindergarten. If you have any concerns about your child's development please feel free to arrange a time to discuss this with the Director.

Library

Children are welcome to borrow books from the kindergarten's library. Parents are encouraged to help their children borrow library books regularly as reading at home is an important part of emergent literacy development. Please fill in the borrowing sheet. Children wishing to borrow books must have a library bag. Library bags are available from the kindergarten, generously handmade and donated by the Lioness Club of Millicent.

Excursions and special events

We acknowledge the importance of excursions to enhance children's learning and development. Therefore we may organise and participate in excursions throughout the year. These excursions or special events are either significant community events or linked to aspects of the kindergarten program and are developmentally and age appropriate. Families will be informed of these events and related details via a special newsletter, seeking consent for their child's participation. Most excursions/events do incur an additional charge but we attempt to keep costs to a minimum (part of the cost is often budgeted for by the centre so parents can afford excursions).

Families are always welcome to participate in excursions and special events. We appreciate (and require) as many "hands on deck" whenever we are out of the centre, as the ratio needs to be one adult to each six children. Roll calls will be carried out to account for children on leaving and arriving at the destination as well as the centre.

Change of address / telephone number

Please keep the centre informed of any change of address or telephone number. This is critical in case there is an emergency and we need to contact you quickly.