

Kindergarten Staff

Director	Fiona Maddaford
Teacher	Jenny Prior
ECW	Robyn Jeffery
ECW /Preschool Support	Angela Mason

Children Entitlement

Children are entitled to 15 hours of kindergarten per week for one year prior to the year they are starting school. Aboriginal and Torrens Strait Islander children and children under the Guardianship of the Minister and identified Gifted and Talented children can access 12 hours of Kindergarten per week from the age of 3.

Absence from Kindergarten

Please ring the kindy on 85751290 if your child is absent for any reason. Help reduce the spread of infection by keeping your children home if they are unwell and notify us if your child is suffering from an infectious disease or has head lice. If your child is unwell we will contact you to arrange pick up.

Benefits of regular attendance

Regular attendance at Kindergarten benefits children in many ways.

Children learn the routines of kindergarten and are able to develop a sense of belonging to the kindergarten Children are also able to develop and maintain close relationships with their peers and educators.

Health Checks

All children will have a preschool health check conducted by a Community Health Nurse at some stage during the year. These are arranged by the Kindergarten in consultation with the parents before their child begins school.

Clothing

Paint can usually be removed if first soaked in cold water before washing. It is not advisable for children to wear thongs, as these are dangerous on climbing equipment and when running. Closed toe shoes are preferable. Awkward belts and buckles on pants or shorts make it difficult for independent toileting. We ask that children leave jewellery at home.

First Aid

Children at times may require First Aid for minor injuries that occur whilst in our care at Kindergarten. These incidents are recorded by staff and a note is sent home notifying the parent of the injury and first aid administered. Unfortunately sometimes a child may have a more serious injury. If this occurs staff will ensure appropriate First Aid is administered immediately and then parents are contacted to come and collect their child and then seek further medical support. Alternatively if needed, an Ambulance would be contacted and parents will be notified of this immediately.

Library Books

We have fortnightly visits to the school library which are on Fridays. The children are transported by bus. At the start of the year we will have library membership forms to complete for your child. Children are allowed to borrow a book from the library and then return it at their next meeting.

Lunch Boxes/Fruit time

Fruit time generally occurs around 10.00am. We ask families to bring in a piece of fruit/vegetable that can be shared. We all sit together and enjoy fruit time. Children are encouraged and supported to have a taste of any new foods they haven't tried. We encourage you to pack your child a healthy lunch with limited sugary foods. Some examples might be a sandwich, yoghurt, cheese/biscuits, muffin etc. The kindy follows the Right Bite Strategy which encourages healthy eating. The children all sit together to eat their healthy lunches. Staff sit with the children and supervise them while they are eating.

Drinks

Your child will need to bring a named water bottle. Please ensure this is filled only with water.

Parent Help

We encourage parent help and openly welcome families to come in to help or to share their interests with the children. Some examples of this may be cooking, gardening, pets, yoga, weaving.

Communication

We believe that clear communication is the key to developing strong relationships between families, children and staff. The children have a named pocket that all notices, newsletters, receipts, term planners etc will be placed in at the end of the day. Please check this regularly. Children are also given a communication book which can be used to write notes to parents or parents to inform staff of any necessary information.

You are welcome to come and chat with us with any areas of concern, ideas or questions you may have.

Parking/Bus Zone

Please be aware of the no parking area outside the Kindy between 9-9.30 and 3-3.30 each day.

Program

Anyone is welcome to contribute to our program, especially if we are discussing something that you are interested in and can assist us with. We base our planning on children's interests, weekly observations, and parent input and staff discussions. We reflect daily on our program ensuring we are meeting each individual child's needs. Each child has their own learning portfolio which is a collection of their work and photos during the year. These are taken home at the end of the year. We participate in regular excursions both locally and into Murray Bridge.

Washing Roster

We have a roster for parents to assist us with the Kindy washing. This is usually once per term and requires you to wash and fold the art smocks and tea towels in preparation for the next Kindy week.

Working Bees

From time to time we have a Working Bee at the Kindy. This is to assist with jobs that need doing around the Kindy. These usually occur once or twice per year. It is fantastic if you can offer your time to help us as many hands can get the jobs done much faster!

A list of the jobs that need to be completed will come out before the working bee is on to allow you time to plan this into your diary and also to check what sorts of tools may be required.

Policies

The kindergarten policies are available to view in a folder at the entrance to the kindy. You are welcome to access these at any time and if any further information is required please come and chat with one of the staff.

Support Services

We have access to DECD Support Services such as

- Speech Pathologists
- Behaviour Support
- Special Education
- Psychologists
- Occupational Therapist (these can be accessed through Murray Mallee Health)

If you have any concerns about your child's development please come and have a chat with the Director who will be able to decide on the need for a referral for extra support.