SOME INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

KINDY FEES

- Full time Kindy: $100 per term

OUR CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM

Greenwith Kindergarten is a DECD kindergarten that offers a specialised preschool education program for children in their eligible year before school. Our philosophy and program is PLAY based as we believe this is the most natural way that young children learn.

Our routine is structured to allow children large amounts of time to be involved in their play; time to go back and revisit experiences; and time to explore new areas. They can choose to play inside or outside, alone or with others and some times, staff will include them in experiences that have been specifically planned to meet their needs.

Experiences are kept out for a week at a time to enable children to practice and refine their skills and to have an opportunity to explore new experiences across the week. We have a group time at the end of each session to acknowledge that we are a “group”, to share information and to enjoy literacy and musical experiences that are chosen to match current needs and interests.

Snack times are not set so that children can independently structure them into their own agenda and eat when they are hungry and with their own friendship group.

The Early Years Learning Framework, Belonging, Being and Becoming, is the national curriculum document on which we base our programming and assessment and recording.

There are five Learning Outcomes, designed to capture the integrated and complex learning and development of all children across the birth to 5 age range.

The Outcomes are:
- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their worlds
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators

These outcomes are broad and observable and acknowledge that children learn in a variety of ways and vary in their capabilities and pace of learning. Children’s learning is ongoing and each child will progress towards the outcomes in different and equally meaningful ways.

Each week/fortnight staff plan a program based on the interests and current needs of the children. This information comes from observations taken daily and from information collated in children’s portfolios. 3-4 Learning Outcomes become the focus for the group and these are displayed on the Program Board. Staff will also focus on many more areas across the week as they work with individual children and their individual goals.

Staff report children’s learning to parents through Portfolios compiled across the year and a Summative Report written for school at the conclusion of their time at Kindy.

It is also a DECD requirement that all children participate in learning from the Child Protection Curriculum. In the Early Years Band, ages 3-5, this will focus on the following areas: The Right to be Safe; Relationships; Recognising and Reporting Abuse and Protective Strategies.

This learning is woven through our program each week. Staff have been trained to use the teachable moments in children’s play to cover this learning as well as using group times and other play times to highlight and focus on different themes. Parents will be kept informed of this learning through newsletters. Please see staff if you would like more information.

WHY IS PLAY IMPORTANT?

When children play they are:
- Actively engaged and not easily distracted
- Intrinsically motivated to explore their world and things that are important to them
- Construct their own rules and take control of their own learning
- Making choices
- Taking initiative
The process is the most important element of play. Often children don’t have an outcome in mind but are capable of having one if they desire.

“We teach young children to play by providing them with the space, time and materials and by offering them support in problem solving, by offering new problems for them to solve, by paying attention to their spontaneous interest and by valuing their eagerness to learn about the world in which we all live together.”

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged to be active participants in their child’s learning at Kindy. Ways of being involved include:

- Membership on the Governing Council
- Being aware through reading the noticeboards and newsletter about the current program focus and contributing ideas, resources etc
- Helping with activities, preparation, cleaning etc throughout the term
- Donating resources to extend the program
- Supporting fund raising activities
- Sharing information with staff that will assist them in their work with children
- Creating family pages, holiday diaries with children and participating in the borrowing of library books, literacy kits and other kits.

WHAT TO BRING TO KINDY EACH DAY

- A hat. As part of our sun safe policy, children are required to wear a hat outside at Kindy all year round. If they do not have a hat they will need to stay on the verandah or inside. Legionnaire style hats are preferred. We recommend that parents apply sunscreen to children before they come to Kindy. Permission is obtained from parents of children staying all day, to apply sunscreen to their child after lunch. On hot days children will be directed to play in shaded areas where activities will have been set up. It is suggested that tops with sleeves be worn to provide additional sun protection. Shoes will only be removed for some sandpit play. They will be worn at all other times. Children will be encouraged to drink more frequently in the warmer weather.

- A Kindy Bag. These can be hung on a hook or placed in the bag cupboard on the verandah. Please ensure they are labelled clearly with your child’s name on the outside. Parents may wish to use a key ring or other attachment to help children identify their bag as many bags look the same.

- A change of clothes. There are times when children may have toileting accidents or may become wet from playing in water while at Kindy. Please keep a change of clothes in their bag all year round.

- A library bag.

- A snack and water bottle/cup. Please choose 1 or 2 from the following choices for your child’s morning or afternoon snack: fresh or dried fruit; vegetables; cheese and dry, unflavoured crackers (sao, cruskit, salada, plain rice crackers) or a sandwich with a savoury filling. Water for drinks only please or a cup so your child can access water from our drink container. Please ensure all bottles and snack containers are labelled with your child’s name. A detailed copy of our “Healthy Eating Policy” is included in your enrolment pack. Greenwith Kindergarten is a “NUT FREE” site as we have many children with severe allergies. This also includes peanut butter and nutella spreads. Staff incorporate learning about healthy eating and awareness of some children’s food allergies in our program. A poster is also on the verandah to promote the eating of healthy snacks at Kindy.
On your child’s full day at Kindy:

- In addition to a morning and afternoon snack, children need to bring a packed lunch. Whilst the snacks are kept in your child’s bag, lunches are to be placed in the baskets on the verandah on arrival. This is to ensure that children don’t eat their lunch during the session. Staff will move these into the kitchen after the session starts.

Additional information about our kindergarten can be accessed by contacting us by phone or email.

GREENWITH KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT POLICY

Due to Greenwith Kindergarten experiencing continual high demand for enrolment places, it has been necessary to define “Priority of Access” to the preschool and program through a formal Enrolment Policy.

When parents initially enquire about enrolment at the kindergarten they will be invited to complete a Preliminary Enrolment and Waitlist Form. This form is dated when it is received by staff and placed into the filing system according to the priority areas below and date. A confirmation of receipt of this form, which contains this policy, is then sent to parents. This letter will also give the date they will be able to commence Kindy if they are offered a place and in which term they will receive this notification.

PRIORITy OF ACCESS will be given in the following order:

1a. Families residing in the Greenwith area (as defined by the Golden Grove Partnership).

1b. Families who are in the process of building or buying in the above areas.

1c. Families who are currently or have previously been a part of the Greenwith Education Community but who may now reside in other areas.

2a. Families living outside of the above areas but whose children may be attending any school in the Greenwith area.

2b. Families who use caregivers in the Greenwith area.

3. Families living outside of the above outlined areas.

Within these categories, priority will be given to children with additional needs, children from English as a Second Language backgrounds, children from age 3 who are under the Guardianship of the Minister and children from the age of 3 who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander’s.

The Director reserves the right to exercise discretion when applying this policy at all times.

Greenwith Kindergarten Governing Council
Sept 2014