

Orientation Procedures: Beginning Preschool *I wonder.....*

Frequently Asked Questions

o Do I need to make an appointment to talk to the Director?

Not always, but a phone call to check is always appreciated.

o When do I put my child's name on a waiting list?

Anytime that you like. It helps our Preschool's forward planning to have an accurate estimate of future enrolments, so certainly by the time your child reaches the age of 3 or so is a good guide.

o Am I able to visit the preschool with my child?

Certainly. Again an appointment is appreciated.

o When will my child be able to start preschool?

The following web address has a calculator to work out your child's starting date.

http://www.earlyyears.sa.edu.au/a8_publish/modules/publish/content.asp?id=42918&navgrp=151

o Can my child have "full days" of preschool?

Yes. At the moment we have 2 attendance patterns, both of which have full days. We have a Purple Group, attending Monday & Tuesday, and alternating Wednesday morning on odd weeks during the terms and a Gold Group, attending Thursday & Friday, and alternating Wednesday mornings on even weeks during the terms.

o I have completed a preliminarily enrolment form. Does this mean that my child is automatically assured a place?

No. We have a Priority of Access Policy which we need to use whenever numbers are tight. We would need to look at your individual circumstances before we are able to confirm a place.

o When will I know that my child has a preschool place and what sessions will they be enrolled in?

If a place is available, we will mail you out an enrolment form and invitation to attend an orientation evening at the centre (we need to have your child registered at the centre before we can send this out, so please contact the preschool during the year before your child commences preschool). At this get together we will be able to let you know the session times. If necessary, you may put in a preference for a particular attendance pattern, although we are only able to place children within our capacity limits.

o What school/schools does this preschool transition into?

Most children go onto Nairne Primary School, with a small number attending both public and private schools mainly in the hills.

o What Learning Frameworks inform the Centre program?

We work with the *Early Years Learning Framework* or *EYLF* as it is commonly called.

o Do I need to contact the school to enrol my child?

Yes, each Primary School will need you to complete an enrolment form before your child commences school. Although we pass details onto Nairne Primary School, if you have indicated your child will attend Nairne, the school would appreciate it if you call into the office and fill in an enrolment form for your child.

o What self help skills will support my child when they start preschool?

Encouraging your child to be independent in using the toilet and dressing, and inviting them to participate in simple household chores is always excellent preparation for preschool. Providing opportunities for them to mix with other children is important too.

o What is the value of play in children's learning?

We cannot emphasise how important it is! Research has shown that learning through play is one of the most important ways that children learn and develop. Play is also recognised as a right for children in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child* (1989). Evidence shows that play can support learning across physical, social, emotional and intellectual areas of development as well as learning in different content areas including literacy and numeracy.

o What will the teacher expect of my child when starting Reception?

Contrary to what most people believe, reading, writing and knowing colours or numbers are not readiness indicators. Research shows that children are more likely to cope successfully if they have had positive experiences away from their home and familiar adults. Preschool provides an environment for children to develop this holistic competence in all areas, including social, emotional, and physical development. There are no set requirements: each child is different! Rest assured....teachers are responsive, schools and preschools are adaptable - in accordance to your child's skills, abilities and needs.

o My child identifies as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, what does the preschool offer to support their learning?

We value and respect Aboriginal culture. Developing all children's cultural awareness and competence is a vital part of our work. We like to work with the local Aboriginal community so that they are empowered to support their children's education. Children identifying as Aboriginal are eligible to enrol from the age of 3 years.

o My child has English as a second language, what does the preschool offer to support their learning?

We have access to bilingual support workers who are able to provide invaluable language support for children with a second language. We value multicultural input from families and community members: it adds richness and depth to our educational program.

o My child has additional needs, what does the preschool offer to support their learning?

When your child begins with us we will ask you about your child's additional needs. We will then tailor your child's program to accommodate these needs. If necessary, we will seek to arrange additional support in terms of physical accommodations and/or time.

o My child has a nut allergy. What is your policy regarding children with allergies?

Many children present with allergies. We ask that you work with your child's medical doctor to produce an appropriate health care plan which we are then happy to follow at Preschool. The whole preschool community is asked to support us in the management of food allergies by being *allergy aware* in the types of food that they provide for lunches. All staff are trained in First Aid and we also have staff with specialised anaphylaxis and *Epipen* training.

o My child has severe asthma. What is your policy regarding children with specific health needs?

As above. An appropriate health care plan is essential. (All staff have received asthma training).

o Does the centre have a behaviour management policy?

Most certainly. You may view the whole school policy – and our own behaviour code at any time. Our emphasis is upon promoting positive behaviours and interactions although we also of necessity have a raft of approaches for handling challenging behaviours.

o Are there ways in which I can be involved in the preschool program?

Yes! We encourage parents and families to participate meaningfully in our program. We document some of our learning in the form of a *Floorbook* which we encourage families to read, share and add to. We also invite you to come in and share your skills and knowledge in areas of current interest. We regularly hold family events so that working parents have an opportunity to participate as well. You may even be interested in joining the Governing Council!