

# Wodonga West Children's Centre



## Kinder Information booklet 2023

# Welcome to Kinder

Welcome to Wodonga West Children's Centre, incorporating services for children 0-12 yrs including our Early Learning Centre (Kindergarten) and Primary school. Our ELC is the first stepping stone in your child's education.

Wodonga West Children's Centre is committed to supporting children from 0-12 yrs and their families. Opening in 2017, this facility boasts a warm and welcoming environment which provides rich learning experiences through the use of contemporary learning resources so your child can develop their imagination and creativeness, and become confident learners.

Our expectations of **BE SAFE, BE RESPECTFUL**, and **BE A LEARNER** underpin all that we strive for at Wodonga West Children's Centre.

Wodonga West Children's Centre is excited to work in partnership with you for the start of your child's formal education journey. We acknowledge that you are your child's first teacher.

This booklet provides valuable information about the Kindergarten experience and will help you to prepare for this important time of your child's life. Please keep it in a safe place as a handy reference for the year.

## Kindergarten Staff

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Kylie Whitsed (Ms Whitsed)</b> | Early Childhood Teacher, Educational Leader |
| <b>Suzanna Jacob (Ms Jacob)</b>   | Educator                                    |
| <b>Amritha Shah (Mrs Shah)</b>    | Educator                                    |

*Please note that all educators will be called by their title followed by their surname (E.g. Mrs Smith)*

## Contact Information

If you would like more information regarding Wodonga West Children's Centre please contact us on the details below.

Wodonga West Children's Centre

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Corner Lawrence and Murphy Streets

Wodonga, 3689

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Email:

Ms Whitsed

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# Kindergarten Philosophy

**Learning For Living - To develop lifelong learners who become active citizens and participate responsibly in community life.**

Our vision “Learning for Living” ensures our commitment to continuous learning of our own pedagogical skills. Our staff support children in becoming, belonging, and being part of the broader community for life-long learning.

We acknowledge that we are on the land of traditional people and pay respects to the owners past, present and future. We value the diverse cultures of the children who attend our centre.

All children at Wodonga West Children’s Centre are encouraged and supported to Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Learners.

Our Early Learning Centre strives to develop connection and belonging, trust and respect in order to develop a sense of personal competence in children. We view children as being capable and competent learners and support inclusive practice for children of all abilities. We support this by offering extensive in session allied health support to meet every child’s individual wellbeing and educational needs.

We believe in creating a close partnership with families and the community so we can work collaboratively to support the capabilities and learning outcomes for all children.

Our Program values the importance of building strong foundations in the early years to enhance and extend children’s learning in the five outcomes; identity, wellbeing, community, learning and communication.

Our educational program provides children with a variety of activities and experiences to enhance the leaning outcomes. Our program is driven by the needs and interests of the children and their community. Children learn through play and are provided with opportunities to extend their own learning by investigating, experimenting and exploring their environment. We use intentional teaching to introduce, scaffold and extended the children’s learning.

We strive to provide learning opportunities which promote and support awareness of sustainability and our responsibility for the natural environment. We provide the children with opportunities to learn about healthy life styles and good nutrition which links to the schools Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program.

Our Early Learning Centre understands and values the importance of a smooth transition to Primary school for all children. We are committed to a close relationship between the Early Learning Centre and the school to maximise the learning outcomes for all children.

## **Fee Information**

Wodonga West Children's Centre office will send you an invoice stating your fees for each term.

All fee inquiries are to be directed to the school office (8:30am – 4:00pm)

## **Immunisation records**

Enrolments cannot be processed and confirmed unless an immunisation history status form, available from Medicare, has been received. (Victorian State Government Legislation)



## **Term Dates**

The kindergarten follows the same term dates as the primary school year, with some variations for pupil free days.

## **Session Days and Times**

**3yr & 4 year 5 year old kinder Group (15 Hours Funded)**

Tuesday: 8:30am – 4pm (7.5hrs)

Wednesday: 8:30am – 4pm (5hrs)

Thursday: 8:30am – 4pm (7.5hrs)

Our sessions are offered as a 3y4 and 4/5yr old mixed session.

## **Interview and Orientation Days**

### **Interviews**

Before your child commences kindergarten, you have the opportunity to visit the kindergarten to discuss the kindergarten process, fees, and learning opportunities for your child. These days are particularly helpful for families entering into kindergarten for the first time.

The school will contact you in early December to arrange a suitable time for a 10 minute interview.

## **Orientation**

Your child will also be invited to participate in an Orientation Day at the beginning of the year. This day supports children in becoming familiar with their kindergarten environment. It provides an opportunity for children to explore their new environment and meet their teachers and educators.

If you feel your child would benefit from more orientation sessions after this date please speak with the kinder teacher.

## **What to bring to kinder**

- A kinder bag.
- Spare Clothes weather appropriate clothes in a plastic bag in the bottom of their kinder bag
- A broad brimmed Hat - Term 1 and 4
- Lunch - fruit, sandwich and other everyday/healthy snacks
- 1 box of tissues (*to be given to the educators and shared with the group*)

NB: Cooled drinking water is readily available both indoors and outdoors at the Kinder

**NO TOYS are to be brought to kinder.**

## **Clothing and footwear**

It is best to send your child in casual, comfortable clothes. This allows them to freely participate in messy experiences such as painting, clay, sand and water play. While smocks are supplied, they don't always prevent clothes from getting dirty.

Thongs, crocs and shoes with non-grip soles are not to be worn as they are dangerous when running and climbing. Long dresses may also inhibit participation and be hazardous when climbing. It is an expectation that children leave their shoes on whilst at Kinder.

Please ensure all clothing is easily managed by the child when they use the toilet.

**Please clearly label all items and clothing with your child's name**

**The following items are available for purchase at the front office**



**Polo Shirts - \$30**



**Hats - \$15**

## **How to arrive and exit the kindergarten**

### **Car parking**

Car parking is available on Lawrence Street and Murphy Street. As children exit adjacent to the carpark. It is reserved for Wodonga West Children's Centre staff members only. For more information please refer to the Car parking policy.

### **Arrival**

An educator will open the door 5 minutes before the session begins. Please stay with your child until the session start time.

All children will enter the kindergarten using the front door at school reception. Please enter quietly as you make your way through to the early learning centre. On arrival you will sign your child in on the attendance record sheet located inside the kinder room. Children will then find their bag locker and place their bag in there. Please walk your child into the Early Learning Centre to greet the teacher/educator before leaving.

### **Departure:**

We invite you to come into the kinder from 3:45pm and spend some time with your child in the last 15 minutes of the session. Please ensure you sign your child out on the attendance record sheet before departing. Late departures will incur a fee as stated in our fees policy.

*Please ensure that you only open the doors to let your own children in or out of the kinder.*

## **Family engagement**

Kindergarten programs are further enhanced for children when a family's understanding of their child is shared with staff. Wodonga West Children's Centre is committed to encouraging and supporting parent/carer participation and involvement in all aspects of the program.

Participation by parent/carers is welcomed at all levels, be it an active involvement as a representative, fundraising, support at working bees, involvement in the children's program as a helper, or sharing your skills, hobbies and occupations with us.

As part of Wodonga West Children's Centre you will have the opportunity to join the following:

- **PFF (Parents, Family and Friends)** –This is a great way to get to know members of the Wodonga West Children's Centre community. Meetings are held monthly after fortnightly Monday assemblies. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings or become involved in any of the activities that the group undertakes during the kinder year. This is a very positive way of supporting our children through the team effort of all parents at WWCC.
- **School Council** – This group meets monthly. The AGM is held in March. School Council is a representative body comprised of parents and staff which supports and guides the

educational partnership between home and the school/Kinder. A kindergarten representative can be co-opted to this group.

## **What the educational program looks like**

The Australia Government has developed the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and the state government has further created the Victorian Early Years Learning and development framework (VEYLDF) to ensure your child receives a quality education program in their early childhood setting prior to Primary School. Both frameworks evoke a vision for all children to experience play-based learning that is engaging and builds their success for lifelong learning.

### **The EYLF outlines 3 elements:**

**Belonging** – Children feel they belong as they form close and trusting relationships with their family, community, culture and place.

**Being** – Children need time to just be, time to play, enjoy life and take on challenges here and now.

**Becoming** – Children are shaped by many factors and begin to learn and grow actively moulding them today and in the future.



## The VEYLDF consists of 5 learning outcomes:

### 1) Children have a strong sense of identity (IDENTITY)

- **Self-regulation** – impulse, control, sharing.
- **Respectful interactions** – supported, extended and role modelled.
- **Confidence** – in themselves and their abilities, to try new things, to stand up for themselves.
- **Resilience** – the ability to bounce back from adversity (Opportunity to express themselves through art, puppets, conversation, stories and role plays).
- **Feeling safe and supported** – to try new things, and to express their ideas, needs and wants.

### 2) Children are connected with and contribute to their world (COMMUNITY)

- **Group participation** – turn taking, sharing, helping peers.
- **Respect for environment, community and self** – looking after belongings, sustainability and independence.
- **Valuing diversity, social inclusion** – valuing each individual for who they are.
- **Understanding learning** – following instructions, coping with routines and with change.

### 3) Children have a strong sense of wellbeing (WELLBEING)

- **Emotions** – recognising and expressing emotions appropriately
- **Gross/fine motor, and sensory skills** – experiences which promote these skills. e.g. painting, ball throwing, bead threading, outdoor play etc.
- **Safety** – awareness and understanding of personal safety, personal space, safe climbing etc.
- **Self-Care** – by giving the children age appropriate responsibilities and choices, they develop a sense of autonomy and begin to not rely on others so much to meet their needs.
- **Building relationships** – during the year, children move from solitary/parallel play into more cooperative play situations, and playing games with rules. This involves the sharing of ideas and materials, and working together to achieve a common goal.

### 4) Children are confident and involved learners (LEARNING)

- **Collaborative learning** – small and large group participation.
- **Initiating activities** – using initiative, being leaders, and exploring the environment.
- **Play and learning styles** – are catered for to ensure all children develop the necessary skills. For example, some children like to engage in pretend play and are not interested in craft activities at this stage. We will add fine motor aspects to the play areas to ensure they are still developing small muscle control and strength. E.g. pegging clothes in the home corner, drawing block creations.
- **Persistence and concentration** – are fostered throughout the year, children are encouraged to elaborate on their work, and spend more time at activities.

### 5) Children are effective communicators (COMMUNICATION)

- **Oral language skills** – verbal and non-verbal communication (Speaking, listening and comprehension, responding appropriately).
- **Engagement with texts**- matching, rhyming, learning the parts of a book, sequencing ideas, pictures, and events.
- **Expression of ideas** – children are provided with the various mediums which they can use to express their ideas, and are always given an opportunity to speak during group discussions.

Wodonga West Children's Centre's Kindergarten program is guided by both the EYLF and the VEYLDF and it aims to foster all aspects of your child's development. By participating in a variety



of activities and learning experiences which are offered at Wodonga West Children's Centre, your child will extend their skills, abilities and understandings and become confident lifelong learners.

## **Assessing children's learning**

Kinder educators will observe your child's development throughout the year in each learning outcome area. Educators will set goals for your child and implement specific learning experiences to enhance their skills and abilities.

The kinder teacher will be available on a regular basis to meet with families to discuss the development of your child. If you wish to speak with the kinder teacher regarding your child's development please make a suitable time outside the kinder session to meet.

Transition learning and development statements will be written by the kindergarten teacher and the families and forwarded to the foundation teachers of the primary school during term 4.

## **Transition to school**

Starting school is a major life transition for children and their families. It is a period of change that can be both challenging and exciting, in which children and families adjust to new roles, identities and expectations, new interactions and new relationships.

As our kindergarten is part of Wodonga West Children's Centre (0-12 Years), the children are engaged in a very extensive ongoing school transition program. Regular outings around the school grounds provide multiple opportunities for the kinder children to familiarise themselves with the school environment. The kindergarten works closely with the foundation teachers to ensure the educational program and curriculum learning outcomes (VEYLDF) flow smoothly into the foundation educational program.

The transition learning and development statement supports the consistent transfer of information.

## **General information I need to know**

There are a number of policies and procedural guidelines that relate directly to the kindergarten as part of Wodonga West Children's Centre. Copies of these are kept in a folder on the table in the foyer. These include:

- Arrival and Departure Policy
- Enrolment Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy
- Medication Policy
- Payment of Fees Policy

***All staff at Wodonga West Children's Centre look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year.***