



# FAMILIES GUIDE TO *Kindergarten*



**WE ARE HERE TO HELP**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Kindergarten is now extended to include both three-year-old and four-year-old children. Have you enrolled your child in our kindergarten program?

As we make plans for the future, changes are being made to the government-approved kindergarten program across

Victoria. Kindergarten now includes both four-year-old and three-year-old children. This means an extra year of play-based learning led by an early childhood teacher will be added to Victorian children's education.

## CONTINUITY OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

A two-year kindergarten program provides stability for children and families with enhanced continuity of learning through meaningful long-term relationships with their educators, and access to consistent and sustained quality education and care.

The positive effects of two years of early learning before

formal schooling begins are supported by research. Our two-year, government approved kindergarten program provides children with opportunities to make sense of their world as they actively engage with their peers in learning experiences within specifically designed indoor and outdoor learning environments.

## G8 EDUCATION KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Our purposeful and engaging two-year kindergarten program is guided by the principles, practices and outcomes of the **Early Years Learning Framework** and is designed using the G8 Practice Statements. Our program builds on children's interests, embedding learning in literacy, numeracy, sustainability, the arts, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The G8 Education Practice Statements outline expectations around practice in our centres. The Practice Statements are underpinned by early childhood education research about how young children learn, the importance of play, and high-quality approaches to education and care.

## PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES

Relationships with families are central in our two-year kindergarten program. Relationships are key to delivering the best possible learning opportunities for your child. We view their early childhood education as an extension of the learning occurring at home. That is why we want

to support you to build on what we do each day. We do this by keeping you informed about your child's learning outcomes and the learning experiences we provide in the learning environment. Families are children's first teachers.

## SCHOOL READINESS

A two-year kindergarten program will provide support for a smooth and successful transition to school. The transition to school from kindergarten to a new environment with new relationships, new routines, new expectations, and new experiences can be an exciting, yet

daunting time for children and families. A positive start to school life relies on a collaborative approach between parents, kindergarten teachers, primary teachers, children and in some circumstances, health professionals.

## BENEFITS OF A TWO-YEAR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Research shows children are more likely to learn when they are engaged in an active, play-based program. Developed by bachelor degree qualified and registered early childhood teachers, our program supports children to actively engage in learning and support a range of positive outcomes for children.

As children progress on their learning journey our planned and responsive two-year kindergarten program caters to

the individual needs of your child. We offer increasingly complex experiences to develop positive dispositions for life-long learning. Planning from children's interests, we work alongside them as they challenge themselves to take risks in their learning; be creative and curious problem-solvers; develop resilience as they persist with new challenges; and have confidence to develop positive and lasting relationships with their peers.



## WHAT NEXT?

Choosing the right kindergarten program for your child is an important decision for families and we are here to help. Our two-year kindergarten program is based on providing you and your child with continuity, stability, and long-term learning and development opportunities. For more information speak to your Centre Manager.

In their early years, children build the brain connectors for all future learning through active engagement, alongside their peers, in a play-based program.