


Kindergarten/Preschool Programs

Part of our enhanced learning program for 3 – 5 year olds

- Programs to inspire confident, resilient, independent learners, building strong foundations for school
- Run by qualified early childhood teachers
- Extended hours and year round programs to support busy families





Our program allows families access to a government approved Kindergarten/Preschool program within a long day care setting so busy Australian families can receive flexible, extended hours of year-round care. This means greater convenience for you, plus access to a government approved early learning program in Kindergarten/Preschool.

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**“Play is the
highest form of
research”**

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Setting the scene for Kindergarten/Preschool

All education and care settings in Australia use Belonging, Being, Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework V2.0 (EYLF) for Australia as a guide to developing their programs.

Belonging: Children belong first to a family, a cultural group, a neighbourhood and a wider community.

Being: Childhood is a time to be, to seek and make meaning of the world.

Becoming: Becoming reflects the process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as young children learn, develop and grow.

The Practices, Principles and Learning Outcomes from the Framework are embedded in our Kindergarten and Preschool programs. Our programs will provide children with opportunities to learn how to:

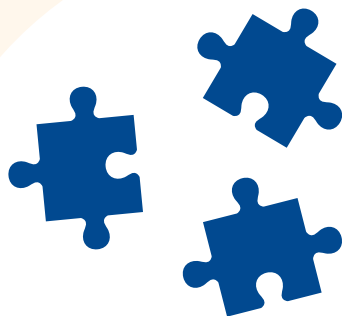
- Use language effectively to communicate ideas, feelings and needs
- Make friends and cooperate with other children
- Become more independent and confident in their abilities
- Develop self-regulation
- Creatively express ideas and feelings through art, dance and dramatic play
- Identify, explore and solve problems
- Develop literacy and numeracy skills

State-based learning guidelines for Kindergarten and Preschool are also used in some states with a continued focus on play-based learning.

Play-based learning is a context for learning through which children organise and make sense of their social worlds, as they actively engage with people, objects and representations

Enrol your child in our Kindergarten/Preschool programs to maximise their learning, development and wellbeing outcomes.

- ✓ Develop literacy skills, creatively expressing ideas and feelings through art, music, story-telling and dramatic play
- ✓ Develop scientific and numeracy skills as they identify, explore, examine and pose questions to solve problems
- ✓ Use language effectively to communicate ideas, feelings and needs
- ✓ Develop resilience and self-regulation through engaging in experiences that challenge them
- ✓ Grow in confidence, developing a positive view of themselves as a learner
- ✓ Make friends and engage in group experiences where they cooperate with their friends



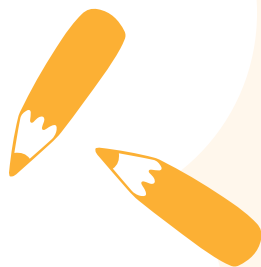
Children as confident learners

Children are learning from birth. The Kindergarten/Preschool year provides a play-based context for continued learning through which children make sense of the world as they engage actively with people, objects and spaces.

Key to children's learning is our high-quality, government approved Kindergarten/Preschool program. Developed by early childhood teachers and aligned to the national EYLF, our program supports children to develop skills that enable them to experience success as a learner in the Kindergarten/Preschool year and beyond.

Our program builds on children's interests, embedding learning in literacy, numeracy, sustainability, the arts, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

What will my child learn?



Our program is designed to encourage curiosity and creativity. Your child will learn to question, discover and problem-solve in a fun, safe and secure learning environment.

Language and Literacy

Our teachers support children's oral language development by engaging children in rich discussions, supporting children to communicate with each other, introducing new vocabulary as part of everyday conversations, modeling correct grammar and sentence structures, singing, and reading to children daily.

Throughout the Kindergarten/Preschool year and at school entry, children use language to share ideas, ask questions, express themselves, and connect with peers and adults in social settings.

Social-Emotional Development

Social-emotional development skills including the ability to self-regulate one's emotions support children to experience success in group learning environments. Through our evidence based Rhythm and Music for Self-Regulation (RAMSR) Program children learn to boost attention and emotional regulation by developing crucial skills. Children also learn to enhance cognitive abilities by fostering mental flexibility, inhibition, and working memory through engaging activities. Our dedicated early childhood teachers have undergone specialised RAMSR training to bring the benefits to your child.

The background of the page is a warm, orange-toned photograph of children. In the foreground, a child's hands are visible, playing with colorful building blocks. In the upper right corner, three white musical notes are floating. The title text is centered over the image.

Enhanced Learning Programs for Kindergarten and Preschool

Our programs have been developed to ensure we create curious and confident learners.

As listed on the following page, we use a wide variety of play-based learning experiences to provide your child with the opportunity to explore, question, experiment and evaluate.



LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY

NUMERACY

- Recognising numerals and working with numbers
- The attributes of shapes
- Sorting and classifying familiar objects
- Identifying patterns
- Measurement

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

- Oral language skills
- Storytelling
- Shared reading
- Rhythm and rhyme
- Drawing and emergent writing

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Understanding and regulating emotions
- Collaborating with peers
- Developing friendships
- Developing empathy
- Resolving conflict

FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

In our centre this may look like...

- Inclusion and diversity
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Shared decision-making
- Sustainability and stewardship
- Digital Citizenship

DISPOSITIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL LEARNING

- Curiosity
- Resilience
- Independence
- Confidence
- Persistence
- Imagination

CREATIVITY

- Sensory exploration
- Drama and role-play
- Dance and rhythm
- Music, melody and tempo
- Art and design

STEM

- Questioning and investigating
- Hypothesising, testing and evaluating
- Experimenting and constructing
- Use of information technology

Our people

The quality of our program is underpinned by the quality of our people. We invest in our valued educators, Early Childhood Teachers and leaders so they can nurture, empower and support your child on their learning journey.

Meet our Education Team



Chief Education & Learning Officer
Ali Evans



Education Manager Innovation & Partnerships
Dr Mia Christensen



National Pedagogy & Practice Manager
Meg Parnell



National Teacher Programs Manager
Slavica Hristova



Teacher Partners
in NSW and VIC



Practice Partners
in all states

Partnering with our families



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. Continuity of learning between home and centre is a priority for us.

We do this by keeping you informed about your child's learning outcomes and the experiences we provide in the learning environment. Our Child Care Management System, Xplor, provides a streamlined platform for family communications and enables instant, secure access to your child's learning outcomes and day-to-day experiences. From here families can access photographs, drawings, observations and outcomes so that you can build upon what your child is learning at the centre into your daily routine at home.



Here’s how you can expect to partner with us across the year:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Daily Group Xplor Posts (1 p/room)												
Monthly observations & centre newsletter												
Summary of Learning Against Objectives	Set learning intentions for the year				Half year summary of learning						Full year summary of learning	
Centre Events	Our centres celebrate a variety of events including Mother's, Fathers and VIP days, Grandparents Day, World Teachers Day and NAIDOC Week. <i>Speak with your Centre Manager for a full list of events.</i>											

Families are children’s first teachers. Please share with us information about your child’s interests, strengths and needs on a regular basis.

Frequently asked questions

- Q:** How old does my child have to be to attend the Kindergarten or Preschool program?
- A:** While this varies from state to state, an approved Kindergarten or Preschool program is delivered in the year prior to starting primary school. In some states, a three-year-old Kindergarten program is now available, enabling two years of curriculum-based programs prior to commencing school.
- Q:** How is the Kindergarten/Preschool program different to the centre's other programs?
- A:** While all our programs align with the Early Years Learning Framework v2.0, the Kindergarten/Preschool program is designed to further develop your child's interests, strengths and abilities. University educated, registered early childhood teachers deliver a developmentally appropriate program that caters to each child's specific learning outcomes.
- Q:** How do you assess children's learning and report this to parents?
- A:** Using our Xplor platform, teachers share photos and daily group observations of your child engaged in learning. These are accessible to you in real time. Twice a year, you will be provided with a summary of learning that outlines how your child is progressing against their individual learning objectives. At the end of the year you'll receive a transition statement you can take to the school your child will attend. This statement contains key information for your child's next teacher and supports them to get to know your child.
- Q:** Can my child enrol in a Kindergarten/Preschool program even if they have never been in an approved education and care centre before?
- A:** Yes! As long as your child meets the age requirements, they are able to attend. Research shows there are multiple benefits to children attending a government approved Kindergarten/Preschool program prior to commencing school.
- Q:** How much Child Care Subsidy am I entitled to?
- A:** In Victoria, families could SAVE up to \$2050* per year, in our 3- & 4-year-old, Government funded and approved 'Free Kinder' program. These savings are on top of your eligible Childcare Subsidy.
- Read more here education.gov.au/child-care-subsidy

Kindergarten and Preschool readiness checklist



Choosing the right Kindergarten/Preschool program for your child can be an overwhelming task for parents. Here’s a checklist to help choose the right centre for your child.

- ☒ Is the Preschool or Kindergarten program government approved and delivered by qualified early childhood teachers or an educator that is studying towards?
- ☒ Are the environments inviting with a range of resources such as blocks, special interest areas, art materials, puzzles and books?
- ☒ Is the program play-based with access to indoor and outdoor environments available across the day?
- ☒ Is there an opportunity for children to be involved in art, dance and dramatic play?
- ☒ Does the program have literacy and numeracy embedded through play-based learning?
- ☒ Is the program aligned with the Early Years Learning **Framework**?

Notes.

