

# Wallace and District Kindergarten

## 2021 Information booklet

Phone: 03 5334 0268

Email: [wallace.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:wallace.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)



We are proud to acknowledge the Wadawurrung peoples as the traditional owners of the land on which we work and play.

## Welcome to our Kindergarten

Along with welcoming your child, we also welcome you and your families to the Wallace and District Kindergarten community. Our door is always open, and we encourage you to be involved in your child's day. We hope that 2021 will be a year full of joy, learning and fun for everyone.

Our kinder environment is set up to encourage play based learning opportunities where children will be encouraged to investigate, discover, engage and take responsibility for their own learning with the support of educators at the service.

## Play based Learning

The educational program at Wallace Kindergarten is developed in line with and reflects the outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF). The frameworks focus on the benefits of play based learning and the opportunities this allows for children to learn and grow. The role of the educator is to encourage and support, directly teach, positively guide and facilitate in play and social interactions. This is achieved through an ongoing planning cycle of observing, analysing, planning, acting and reflecting.

Play is crucial to the development of young children and is necessary before formal learning commences. It is the way children explore, discover and learn about their world, each other and themselves.

Learning through play allows children to explore, experience, communicate, observe, reflect, create, collaborate, and cooperate, problem-solve and imagine. Our observations and planning for children are designed to facilitate these processes. Children are encouraged to exercise independence and choice and to initiate play ideas, to focus their attention and to achieve intrinsic satisfaction.

The use of open-ended/unstructured play materials such as clay, paint, mud, water, sand and blocks allow children to develop a positive attitude towards learning and exploring. **The emphasis is on the process of creativity and not on the end product.**

We know that plenty of play outdoors benefits children immensely, with more studies showing that children who spend a significant time playing outdoors improve in; cognitive abilities, creativity and problem solving, academic performance, social relations, physical activity, eyesight, nutrition, self-discipline and reduced stress. The children at Wallace will have opportunities for lengthy play outdoors in all weather, experiencing all the seasons.

Through play we aim to provide the opportunity for children to experience a wide range of situations. We value long uninterrupted periods where children can immerse themselves deeply in play experiences.

**Play is the highest form of research  
- Albert Einstein**

## **Kindergarten Educators**

Emily Corbet

*Educational Leader & Early Childhood Teacher*

Angela Tinetti

*Early Childhood Educator*

## **Session times**

**3-4 year old (Waa Group)** - Friday 9.15am-12.15pm

**4-5 year old (Bunjil Group)** - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am – 2pm

## **Approved Provider**

Wallace and District Kindergarten is managed by Eureka Community Kindergarten Association (ECKA) who can be contacted on 5339 5055 or [info@ecka.org.au](mailto:info@ecka.org.au)

## **Parents and Friends Group**

Families are encouraged to be an active member of the Parents and Friends Group. This group is responsible for fundraising and coordinating social events. Fundraising is important so that we can continually improve our kindergarten for your child, and children in the future.

## **Program Information**

The educational program will be available to all families at the service through Storypark and displays. Please read the program, ask questions and offer suggestions. We welcome your input to develop a sense of knowledge and understanding of your child's learning.

## **How to be involved in Kinder**

You are welcome to join us at any time during a kindergarten session. You can come for as little or as long as you like. We would love for you to share any special talents that you may have such as singing, musical instruments, gardening or other occupations like woodworking, knitting, farming...anything! Other ways you can be involved are helping out on excursions or special days, fixing broken items, donating items such as boxes and other craft materials.

We will also have gardening, reading and cooking rosters that will commence in Term 2.

## Uniforms

You can purchase any coloured t-shirt/skivvy and shorts/pants/jumper and take to *Hip Pocket* to get the logo put on. Uniforms are not compulsory.

If you purchase clothing from *Hip Pocket* and have logo put on it is \$6.60 per item

If you supply your own clothing it is \$7.50 per item (Prices subject to change)

### ***Hip Pocket***

1265-1267 Howitt Street

Wendouree VIC 3355

Phone: (03) 5339-5446

## What to bring to kinder every day

- **Lunch box** - We encourage Nude Food (no cling wrap or packaging etc)  
*(We encourage pieces of fresh fruit for snack and a sandwich/roll/wrap for lunch. Other healthy items can be included. Please no muesli bars, chips, chocolate, lollies or squeezey yoghurts. If you would like to include yoghurt please decant into a small container or single use tubs that can be recycled)*  
***We have a child who is anaphylactic to egg, so we are an EGG FREE service – this includes raw and cooked egg.***
- Drink Bottle (water only)
- Spare clothing: t-shirt, jumper, shorts/pants and underwear including undies, singlet and socks
- Raincoat/warm jacket for winter
- Gumboots for winter

We value messy play at kinder so please don't dress your child in their best clothes! Clothes need to be practical (for example, frilly dresses can limit a child's ability to climb and play freely). Also please dress your child in shoes with closed toes (no thongs or open toed sandals), as we often use real tools, spades and bikes.

Please ensure that **ALL** items are **labelled clearly** (with your child's name) so they can be returned to their owner if lost.

## Sun Smart

We are a sun smart kindergarten. Children need to be dressed in suitable clothing for protection from the sun. Clothing should be cool and cover as much of the skin as possible. e.g. tops that cover the shoulders, arms and chest, has higher necklines or collars, and long shorts. Singlet tops or shoestring dresses do not provide adequate sun protection and are best layered with a shirt or t-shirt.

We will provide a hat for your child that will remain at kinder. We ask that you please apply sunscreen before the session (we will re-apply during session). Please supply your own if your child needs a particular sunscreen.

## **Birthdays**

We like to celebrate your child's birthday by singing Happy Birthday with a simple wooden cake. On their birthday your child can bring a special toy/present from home to tell us about.

Please place any birthday invitations discretely in children's art/notice files (rather than handing out). This avoids any upset if not all children are invited.

## **Show & Tell**

Children have the opportunity for show and tell on their birthdays. We discourage toys from home at kinder at other times. If we have a topic of interest, we welcome input from home (i.e. books or objects) and special finds from nature are always welcome (nests, feathers, flowers etc.).

The children will have the opportunity to take home our kinder teddy bears Wallace & Wendy. Upon returning to kinder the children can share photos and stories about what the bears got up to.

## **Service Philosophy**

At Wallace and District Kindergarten we draw on many different philosophies and thoughts about contemporary early childhood and are guided by the Early Years Learning Framework. Our priority is to ensure each child feels safe, secure and supported, fostering a sense of belonging and the opportunity to thrive.

Each child is regarded as an individual with his/her own unique family values, culture, experiences, skills and interests.

Children have rights and are respected. Educators hold a strong image of the child, knowing they are capable, competent, curious and full of potential. We value children as unique individuals who are powerful contributors to their own learning. They also learn from encounters that are experienced as being part of a group.

We recognise that families are the first and most significant influence in a child's life and are respected as such. Families are encouraged to participate in all aspects of our program.

We believe that play is crucial to child development. Through play, children explore, discover and learn about their world, each other and themselves. We aim to provide sustained periods of uninterrupted play, in an environment where children are unhurried. We value the indoor and outdoor environment equally and believe that all children should have the opportunity to engage with nature in all the seasons.

We place in high regard the process of learning over any finished product. We embed literacy and numeracy throughout our program in meaningful ways through play, rather than formal instruction.

We celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture, both near and far and aim to embed this learning in all aspects of our program, acknowledging that this learning is ongoing.

***We recognise that childhood is a precious time rich in imagination, curiosity and creativity and we celebrate this.***



# Be more involved in your child's learning

Storypark creates a secure online network Of the people that matter most for your child. It helps working parents, far-away family, educators and specialists ensure children receive the best opportunities possible.

## How does Storypark help my child?

- Deeper insights into your child's unique interests, needs and abilities allows better support and improved outcomes.
- Improves communication between educators and families.
- Enables educators to spend their time with your child more effectively.
- Helps your child define 'what's next' in their learning.
- Share movement, song, and creative expression through audio and video.

## NEXT STEPS

### 1 Sign up and log in

Once you accept the email invitation from your child's teacher you'll be taken to a sign-up page where you can enter your name and choose a password. Storypark is an online service, so you can log in without installing software on your computer.

### 2 Invite family

Share your children's stories by inviting family members and close friends. Create a private network of people to share and support your child's learning journey.

### 3 Comment and create

Parents, teachers and family can write stories and comments, add pictures and videos, and select the children who feature. Published stories will show up in your child's profile. Family members you have invited will get an email to say a new story has been added.

- Actively involve family and children

## Safe and private

- You own all content and control your child's digital footprint
- You manage who is invited to your child's storypark community
- In line with international online security best practices.

## Free access for families

Access is free, for as long as you wish. Storypark travels with your child throughout their learning journey

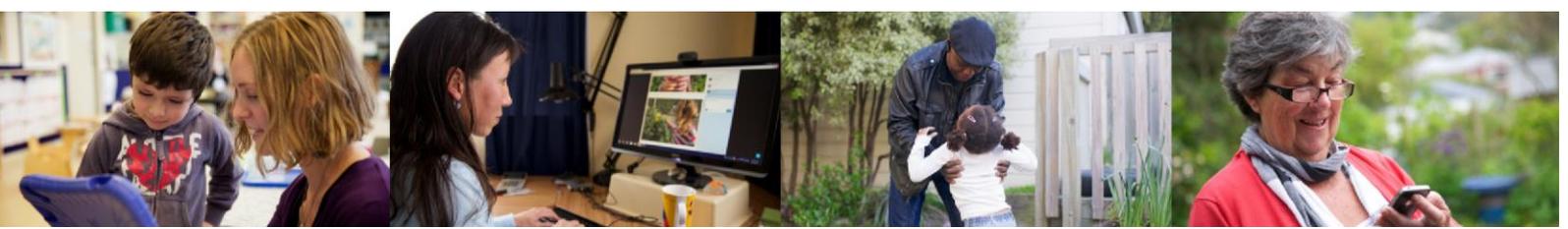
## Need help?

Explore our help centre to find the answer for almost everything.

## Got feedback?

Storypark is being developed with the support and feedback of teachers and families. Email us with how you think we could do better.

“ It keeps me in touch with my children and family. I can spend long hours in the office, so it brightens my day to click and see my children's smiles and day-to-day activities. ” – Storypark Dad



# 11 quick and easy ways to make a nude food lunch box

Kylie Matthews

Join the Nude Food Revolution by reducing the unnecessary waste in your child's lunch box. How? By following these 11 easy tips and tricks on how to make a quick and easy nude food lunch box! In the process, you'll be saving the planet and encouraging your kids to eat healthier too.

**1. GET ORGANISED:** A little bit of forward planning and dedicated time on a Sunday evening can be the difference between healthy nude food lunch boxes for the week and hastily prepared lunch boxes filled with packaged 'convenience' treats.

Dedicate some time to cutting up and portioning lunch box snacks for the week ahead.

Keep them fresh in a container in the fridge and grab them as you pack your child's lunch box each day.

**2. GET THE RIGHT GEAR:** When choosing a lunch box for your child, select one that has compartments.

There are many different varieties of multi compartmental children's lunch boxes on the market. These section off the different varieties of food, doing away with the need for wasteful packaging.

**3. TREAT 'EM RIGHT:** Do away with those expensive, sugar-laden packaged lunch box snacks and discover how much easier, healthier and cheaper it can be to make them yourself.

This way, you know exactly what ingredients are in the snacks your child eats - because you put them there!

A little treat, like chocolate protein balls, muesli slice, muffins and homemade cookies are ideal as they're tasty and easy to throw in the lunch box.

**4. DO AWAY WITH SPILLS:** Choose a leak-proof, refillable bottle for your child to take to school over single-serve juice and water bottles.

We all know our kids' stuff can take a real beating at school, so make sure you choose a sturdy drink bottle that will endure the rough and tumble of your child's busy day.

**5. YOGHURT WITHOUT THE WASTE:** Kids love yoghurt in their lunch boxes, but the packaging of store-bought varieties doesn't make it very nude food friendly or kind to the back pocket...

But rest assured you don't need to rule out yoghurt from the nude food lunch box! Why not make it yourself or buy a big pot and put it in reusable containers?

**6. TOO MUCH IS BARELY ENOUGH:** You can NEVER have too many reusable containers on hand when it comes to nude food lunch boxes.

These stackable and washable little gems are an easy replacement for cling wrap and other packaging and perfect for keeping cut fruit, vegetables and snacks fresh and safe from being squished!

Also it ensures items that are unfinished aren't just thrown in the bin but resealed and brought home to possibly be eaten the next day. This keeps school rubbish to a minimum and the environment happy.

**7. DIPS APLENTY:** To entice your little one to eat the veggies you lovingly include in their nude food lunch box each day, add a little tub of hummus, salsa or avocado dip to the mix. How can any child - or grown-up, for that matter - resist that dippy-dippy goodness? Make a big batch of dip at the start of the week and portion it out for the week ahead to save you time and money.

**8. KEEPING IT COOL:** Insulating lunch boxes are essential in our hot Australian climate, to ensure foods don't spoil and our kids don't get sick. You can choose to freeze an item in the lunch box, such as a water bottle (some lunch boxes come with a 'freezie' drink bottle for this purpose) or invest in a freezable insulated lunch bag. It's just a matter of remembering to freeze your bottle, ice block or insulated bag the night before!!

**9. REUSEABLE CUTLERY:** Your kids may need cutlery in their lunch box - a spoon for their yoghurt, a fork to eat rice or messy cut up fruit ... Do away with disposable cutlery entirely and include reusable cutlery in your child's lunch box instead.

**10. KEEP IT COVERED:** Here's an awesome nude food alternative to cling wrap or Ziploc bags ... skins or bees wax wraps. They're reusable, easy to clean and have none of the nasties like BPA either.

**11. GET CREATIVE:** One of many the good things about nude food lunch boxes is that you can get a bit more creative with your food choices ... For example, using flimsy cling wrap to cover things like watermelon is a sure-fire way to create a disgusting mushy mess your child will chuck in the bin uneaten! But using a reusable container, they're more likely to survive AND get eaten ... In fact, you can make them irresistible by shaping them into love hearts (pictured) or stars. Try it! By making nude food fun, you're contributing to the success of the nude food movement.



*We sincerely welcome you to the Wallace and District Kindergarten Community. We are here to answer any questions you may have. Please speak to us at any time with concerns or queries - no matter how big or small. We value your input and feedback.*

*Educators will be available at the end of each session and can also be contacted via phone or email. We look forward getting to know you, your child and family.*