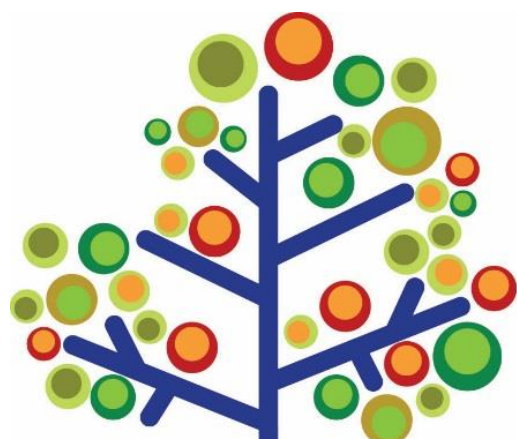


ECKA acknowledges Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners of the lands, water and resources of the countries that ECKA reside upon. We say thank you for sharing your connections and pay respects to their elders of the past, present and emerging. ECKA pays respect to the central place in education that Aboriginal cultural holds and says thank you.



Soldiers Hill

Kindergarten

Welcome to Your
Kindergarten



Enriching children's lives through learning



Soldiers Hill Kindergarten

Contact Us

Soldiers Hill Kindergarten

506 Armstrong Street North, Ballarat, VIC 3350

Phone: 03 5332 6668

Mobile: 0457 806 619 (excursions only)

Email: soldiers.hill.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Internet: www.ecka.org.au

Hours for 2023

4 yr Old Kinder: Monday, Tuesday 8.30-4.00pm
(2x7.5hrs)

3yr Old Kinder: Thursday, Friday 8.30-4.00pm
(2x7.5hrs)

Office Hours: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri 8.00am-5.00pm
Wed 9.00-2.00pm



Soldiers Hill

Kindergarten



Enriching children's lives through learning

Our Preschool is proudly managed by ECKA Inc. ECKA is called the Approved Provider and is responsible for all aspects of the management of the preschool including employment of staff. Information about ECKA can be found at www.ecka.org.au and you will receive an ECKA policy and procedure booklet when you commence.

ECKA is a not-for-profit community based Early Years Management Service for kindergartens and early childhood care services in Ballarat and surrounding areas, proudly managing 28 services. While all kindergartens operate within Legislative guidelines, each kindergarten operate an individual program to meet the needs of the children and families attending their service. ECKA values the role the kindergarten in building local support networks with families, often contributing to lifelong friendships between the families and children who have shared their kinder years together.

Our Purpose

Enriching children's lives through learning.

Our Values

Respect • Courage • Collaboration • Compassion

Our Guiding Principle

In order to deliver on 'Our Purpose', ECKA is committed to being a sustainable organisation that maximises its impact on the lives of children.

We commit to:

- Provision of high-quality education and care services that enhance the learning and development of all children
- Advocating for children and the early education and care sector – being an influential voice for high quality early years services
- Planning and partnering for effective, sustainable, and supported early years services both now and in the future.

Contact ECKA

ECKA Office

11 Grandview Grove, Wendouree VIC 3355

P: 5339 5055

E: admin@ecka.org.au



Soldiers Hill

Kindergarten

Welcome to Kindergarten

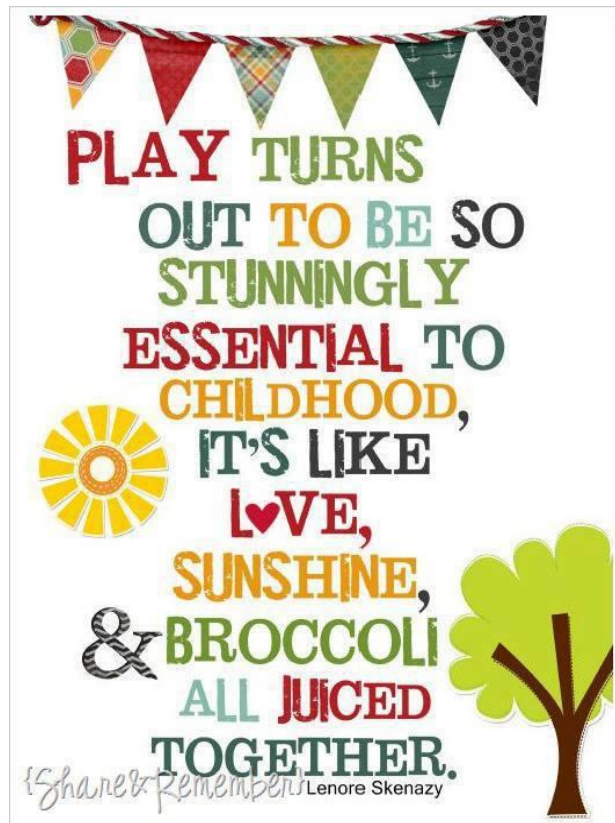
At Soldiers Hill Kindergarten we encourage your child to grow, develop and learn in a warm, caring and safe environment. The Kindergarten program is planned and delivered by a qualified Early Childhood Teacher and is eligible for funding by the Victorian Government. The 3yr Old Kindergarten program is planned for by a Diploma Qualified Early Childhood Educator and will attract some funding in 2022.

We are a community kindergarten offering quality kindergarten programs for four and three year old kinder. The Eureka Community Kindergarten Association looks after our operational needs, with a Parent & Community Group organising fundraising and social events.

We offer a broad range of experiences and activities to meet every child's educational, developmental and enjoyment needs. The program is both play based and teacher led, allowing each child to follow their interests and grow and develop at their own pace.

Thank you for choosing Soldiers Hill Kindergarten for your child's kindergarten year. We look forward to sharing a wonderful year with your child full of learning, discovery, wonder and fun.

Please keep this handbook to refer to throughout the year.





Soldiers Hill Kindergarten

Early Childhood Program

We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing."

(George Bernard Shaw)

Learning through Play

The Kindergarten Program is developed by the Kindergarten Teacher, reflecting the individual needs and interests of each child and the whole group. Each child is a unique individual who is a capable and competent learner, each learning in their own time and with their own learning style. The program has a strong emphasis on play based learning where children are viewed as active participants and decision makers in their learning. A range of play based experiences are offered for children to explore and discover and to extend their interests and abilities in all areas of development.

Play is a context of learning that:

- ◆ *allows for the expression of personality and uniqueness*
- ◆ *enhances dispositions such as curiosity and creativity*
- ◆ *enables children to make connections between prior experience and new learning*
- ◆ *assists children to develop relationships and concepts*
- ◆ *stimulates a sense of well being*

Belonging, Being & Becoming – The EYLF for Australia, 2009, pg 9

Educators regularly record individual written observations on all children. The observations are then assessed with the guidance of the Victorian Early Years Learning Outcomes and future activities and experiences are planned. These are the activities and experiences you can see on the Curriculum plan and in the room.





Soldiers Hill

Kindergarten

Helping Your Child Settle in and Enjoy Their Year

- Ⓢ Talk to your child about Kinder. Drive by and point it out. Use the Educators names; Kristy, Kim, Katherine & Tanya. Let children know staff are there to help them. Discuss the routine and what is expected of them.
- Ⓢ Practice opening lunchboxes and containers. Try snack foods to make sure your child likes them.
- Ⓢ Have shorter sessions if you feel your child is tired or not yet ready for the longer day.
- Ⓢ Provide a confident goodbye to your child at the gate when the educator arrives. When your child observes your positive trust in the educators, it supports them building good relationships with us earlier in the term.
- Ⓢ Ask about their day and remember lots more happens at Kinder than artwork.
- Ⓢ Take the time to meet other parent/guardians and children so you can know your child's friends.
- Ⓢ Arrive on time to collect your child. Children can become distressed quickly if they are left waiting.

What to Bring

- A named back pack, big enough to hold children's lunchbox, spare clothing and art work.
- A healthy snack for morning tea and a healthy lunch. Afternoon tea if your child is doing the 7.5hr sessions.
- A **complete change of clothes** including underwear, socks, singlet, t-shirt, jumper and pants. Please name all clothing.
- A named coat, beanie and gumboots in colder months.



Soldiers Hill Kindergarten

Smiles 4 Miles Program

Our 4yr old group participates in the Smiles 4 Miles program which promotes healthy eating and lifestyles and oral health in young children

The *Smiles 4 miles* program aims to improve the oral health of preschool aged children in Victoria. It is an initiative of Dental Health Services Victoria which works in partnership with local organisations to improve the oral health of the youngest children in the community.

The program is based on the World Health Organisation's Health Promoting Schools Framework and is delivered predominantly in kindergartens

The key messages promoted in the program are:

- **Drink Well:** children are encouraged to drink water instead of sugary drinks
- **Eat Well:** children should eat a variety of nutritious foods
- **Clean Well:** children are taught good tooth cleaning technique to maintain healthy teeth and gums, with a focus on brushing twice a day and using toothpaste with an appropriate amount of fluoride.

Bush Kinder Program

The 4yr Old Kinder children participate in our Bush Kinder Program in terms 2 & 3. One day a week, we go to Pax Hill Scout Camp in the Woowookarung Regional Park. During our Bush Kinder sessions, children are encouraged to connect with country through child led participation and learning.

Storypark

Storypark is an online platform allowing us to share the kinder curriculum, photos, stories, newsletters etc with families. Upon enrolment you will receive an email inviting you to join.





Soldiers Hill

Kindergarten

Meals and Drinks

During a Kinder session; all children will need

- Morning tea, lunch, afternoon snack and a drink bottle of water.

A sandwich or small meal such as pasta salad and a healthy snack such as; fruit, vegetables, dried fruit, rice crackers, cheese slices, yoghurt or dry biscuits are some suggestions.

As we encourage children to make healthy food choices we ask that snacks or lunches that are high in sugar, fat or salt are NOT brought to kinder eg:

- Jam, honey or nutella
- Nutra grain bars, Milo Bars, LCM, muesli bars, pureed fruit, Roll Ups or other high fat/sugar bars
- Chips, chocolates, lollies, sweet biscuits
- Cordial, soft drink, juice, flavoured milk

**** Families will be notified if there are any allergies and which foods are not to be brought to Kinder***

Special Dietary Requirements

Please discuss with staff if your child has any special dietary needs.

Toileting

We encourage all children to toilet independently. However, we recognise that all children are not ready to do this at the same time. **Please provide nappies (or pull ups) and wipes** if your child requires these and/or several changes of clothes (including shoes) if your child is just beginning to toilet train.

Staff are happy to support all efforts to assist families in this process. Please discuss with staff your child's needs.



Soldiers Hill

Kindergarten

Health and Safety

Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Medical Conditions & Allergies

Please let staff know if your child has Anaphylaxis, Asthma, a Medical Condition or Allergy. An **Anaphylaxis/Asthma/Medical Condition or Allergy Management plan must be filled out by your doctor before starting kindergarten** and kept in your child's file at Kinder.

Staff will complete a Risk Management and Communication plan with you. Please bring the required medication each day, or leave a clearly named supply at Kinder.

**** Children will NOT be able to start Kindergarten without a completed Management Plan and Medication at Kinder each day.****

Accidents & Injuries

The Kinder environment is planned to ensure the safety of all children, however accidents can still occur. If your child is injured at Kinder an Accident and Injury form will be filled out detailing the nature of the injury, time, date and action that was taken. You will be asked to sign the report when collecting your child.

In the event of a minor accident during a session staff will:

- Treat the injury as required (wash area, apply band aid etc.)
- Fill out an accident form

*****Parent/guardians are requested to notify the Kindergarten when any of this information changes.*****



Soldiers Hill

Kindergarten

Our Philosophy

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people as the traditional owners of the land on which we learn and grow and respect their ongoing connection to country.

We recognise connections between families, children and communities and embrace the value opportunities they provide to foster learning and a sense of belonging.

We believe in fostering honest, respectful two-way relationships with families.

We believe all families of different cultural, religious, social, economic, and gender have the right to access quality early childhood education

We believe children have the right to the outdoors, natural play spaces, materials, and the environment

We believe children have the right to be safe, healthy, valued, and happy