



Phoenix Kindergarten

Family Information Booklet 2025

Enriching children's
lives through learning

ecka.org.au  

A member of





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



Indigenous Preschool Advancement Strategy (IPAS) Artwork “Cared for”

Painting created by Albert Fagan, Wadawurrung Traditional Owner

Painting description:

The lines within the painting represent the individual journey the children and teachers have taken to get here today. In the middle of the painting is a camp fire where the teachers provide food and water for the children. The symbols on either side represent the teachers and the learning that occurs with the children

WELCOME TO PHOENIX KINDERGARTEN

This information booklet has been compiled so you may have a better understanding of your Kindergarten - the how's and why's of its operation. We hope your association with the kindergarten will be a happy and rewarding one. You will soon become aware that your Kindergarten is not just a centre that your child attends, but more so a unique combination of interested staff and families, all working together with the common goal of producing happy, confident and well-adjusted children.

This centre is bound by the Education and Care National Law 2010 (National Law) and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012, (National Regulation) and the National Quality Standard (NQS) and is responsible to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.



Enriching children's lives through learning

Our Kindergarten 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 29 services. While all kindergartens operate within Legislative guidelines, each kindergarten operates 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.

CHILD SAFE STATEMENT

ECKA's purpose, Enriching children's lives through learning, can only be achieved where children are in education and care environments that are safe, welcoming and inclusive for children and their families; and ensure that children's health safety and wellbeing is protected at all times. Importantly, children must not only be safe but also feel safe. The welfare of children in ECKA services is at all times our priority and ECKA has a zero tolerance to child abuse.

ECKA operates under a range of legislative, policy and procedural requirements that prioritise the safety of children as paramount at all times, and these are available on the ECKA website, ECKA office, and ECKA Services

ECKA encourages all children, families, employees and others involved with ECKA services to participate in regular evaluation and review of policies and practices, or at any time provide feedback, anonymously if desired, via the ECKA website, ECKA office or ECKA service. At all times, any complaints or concerns about child safety will be treated with the highest priority.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

ECKA:

- is committed to the rights of all children to feel safe, and be safe at all times, including:
 - promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children
 - promoting the cultural safety of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
 - promoting the safety of children with a disability
 - promoting the safety of trans and gender diverse children and their families in ECEC settings
 - Ensuring that LGBTIQ+ children and families feel included
- values, respects and cares for children
- empowers children's voices by fostering opportunities for each child to participate, express their views, and to learn and develop
- always acts in the best interests of each child and has zero tolerance of child abuse
- takes all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children at all times, whilst also promoting their learning and development
- actively manages the risks of abuse or harm to each child, including fulfilling our duty of care and legal obligations to protect children and prevent any reasonable, foreseeable risk of injury or harm
- continuously improves the way our service identifies risks of and responds to child abuse and encourages reporting and improved responses to allegations of abuse.
- proactively sharing information with relevant authorities to promote the wellbeing and/or safety of a child or a group of children, consistent with their best interests

CONTACT INFORMATION



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TERM DATES FOR 2025

2025	Start Date	Finish Date	Public Holidays
Term 1	3 February *	4 April	Labour day 10 th March
Term 2	22 April	4 July	ANZAC Day 25 th April Kings Birthday 9 th June
Term 3	21 July	19 September	
Term 4	6 October	18 December	Melbourne Cup 4 th November

* Children commence after the meet and greet interview in early February. Start times can vary so please check Storypark for details on your child's starting date and times.

SESSION TIMES FOR 2025

1st Year (3yos) & 2nd Year (4yos) Groups

Group	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Djirnap A	9:00 - 3:00	9:00 - 3:00	9:00 - 3:00 (Alternating)		
Djirnap B	9:00 - 3:00 (Alternating)	9:00 - 3:00	9:00 - 3:00		
Djirnap C	9:00 - 3:00		9:00 - 3:00 (Alternating)	9:00 - 3:00	
Djirnap D	9:00 - 3:00	9:00 - 3:00 (Alternating)		9:00 - 3:00	
Djirnap E		9:00 - 3:00 (Alternating)	9:00 - 3:00	9:00 - 3:00	
Kuwarnk			9:30 - 2.30	9:30 - 2.30	9:30 - 2.30

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

We welcome all families at Phoenix Kindergarten!

Phoenix Kindergarten is located on Wadawurrung Land. We thank and acknowledge the families that have raised and played with children for thousands of years on the land we now learn and play. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.

At Phoenix Kindergarten we encourage your child to grow, develop and learn in a warm, caring and safe environment.

We are a community kindergarten offering quality kindergarten programs for children in their first years before formal schooling. All our Kindergarten programs are planned and delivered by a Bachelor qualified Early Childhood Teacher in collaboration with Educators, Children and Families.

We offer a broad range of experiences and activities to meet every child's educational, developmental and enjoyment needs. Families are encouraged to share their culture, experiences and skills with us and work together to achieve the best learning outcomes for your child.

The program is both play based and teacher led, allowing each child to follow their interests and grow and develop at their own pace. The programs are guided by our Kindergarten Philosophy, the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF) and the National Quality Standards.

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

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Phoenix Kindergarten is a special learning environment for young children and their families. Our kindergarten has a happy and relaxed atmosphere where all are welcomed.

We recognise the unique status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People as Australia's First Peoples, and we seek to enrich our whole community with an improved knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Koori history and culture.

Children come first

- High expectations are held for every child
- A sense of belonging is valued
- Individuality can shine
- Children of all abilities are treated equally and with respect
- Children are supported to build language and social skills
- Relationships are based on care and respect

Families

- Develop secure and respectful relationships
- Positive partnerships
- Open communication
- We value families as the child's first teacher

Learning Environment

- Children are safe and supported
- Encourage a joy of lifelong learning



- Reflects individual interests and needs
- Positive attitudes to learning are nurtured

Outdoor Play

- Find meaningful ways to develop respect for and connection with the natural environment
- Instil a sense of awe and wonder of their world
- Promote physical and mental wellbeing

To achieve this Educators will:

- Assess and support the individual learning, development and wellbeing of children through positive and meaningful interactions, observations and individual goals
- Plan experiences and activities to support children to become lifelong learners
- Communicate openly and frequently with families about children's learning and development
- Be approachable and professional
- Provide engaging and challenging play-based curriculum guided by the Early Years Learning and Development Framework, Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework and the National Quality Standards

The Environment will:

- Be safe, accessible and creative
- Be challenging and evolving
- Be welcoming and encourage the involvement of parents and community members

SCHOOL READINESS FUNDING

School Readiness Funding (SRF) is a permanent and ongoing part of the Victorian kindergarten funding model. The funding supports 3-year-old and 4-year-old children in all early childhood education and care services delivering state-funded kindergarten programs in Victoria, including long day care.

The amount of School Readiness Funding each service receives is based on the level of need of the children enrolled at their service. This is informed by parental occupation and education data (also known as Student Family Occupation and Education (SFOE data) as this is considered an accurate predictor of educational disadvantage.

At Phoenix Kindergarten we are able to use the funding to;

- hire additional educators to build relationships with children
- access a speech therapist, occupational therapist and psychologist to upskill staff
- attend professional development and training to increase the capacity of staff to support children and families in our community
- Deliver a Stay and Play program with Allied Health



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

In developing our Kindergarten Curriculum, we are guided by the Practice Principles and Learning & Development Outcomes outlined in the Victorian Early Years Learning & Development Framework (VEYLDF) and refer to the Australian Early Years Learning & Development Framework (AEYLDF).

The frameworks are designed to assist families and staff in guiding children's learning and development from birth to eight years.

The Australian Early Years Learning & Development Framework describes the early years as a time of;

- *Belonging: knowing where and with whom you belong is integral to human existence*
- *Being: childhood is not solely a preparation for adulthood or for the future, recognising the significance of the 'here and now' in children's lives*
- *Becoming: reflecting on the process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as young children learn and grow.*

The VEYLDF has 5 outcomes to describe the key elements of the child's learning:

Identity – Children have a strong sense of identity

- children feel safe, secure and supported
- children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency
- children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities
- children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect

Community – Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active civic participation
- children respond to diversity with respect
- children become aware of fairness
- children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

Wellbeing – Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

- children become strong in their social, emotional and spiritual well being
- children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing

Learning – Children are confident and involved learners

- children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity
- children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating
- children transfer and adapt what they have learnt from one context to another
- children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials.

Communication – Children are effective communicators

- children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes
- children engage with a range of texts and get meaning from these texts
- children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media
- children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work
- children use information and communication technologies to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking

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, 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.

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.

Early Childhood Australia - Principles of Play

- *Play is essential and valuable in its own right and for children's learning and development: every child has the right to play in their life*
- *Every child has a right to a balance of play experiences that develop a healthy mind and body and a sense of well-being*
- *Play builds each child's unique sense of self and the emotional and social competence to participate in relationships*
- *Play connects children to their world, their cultural identities, to others and to other ways of knowing, doing and being*
- *Children's right to play is our collective responsibility: all adults have a role in understanding, protecting and valuing the importance of play for every child in every community*

Discussing your Child's Progress

We encourage families to keep us up to date with your child's needs, interests and development. A quick chat at pick up and drop off times is welcome, however if you need a longer discussion time, please contact the teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time.

We offer family & teacher meetings towards the end of term 1 to discuss how your child has settled in and plan goals together for your child to work on at kinder and again in term 3 to discuss transition to 4yr old or school.

Checking Storypark will keep you informed of your child's learning.

FEES

As part of the Victorian Government's *Best Start, Best Life* reform 3yo & 4yo Kindergarten programs will be free from 2025. This means there will be no fees payable by parents. For more information on the Best Start, Best Life reform please visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/kinder>

IMMUNISATION

To enrol at any early childhood service, families must provide the child's Immunisation Certificate issued by Medicare. It must show that the child is;

- Fully vaccinated for their age
- Is on a registered catch-up schedule
- Has a medical reason not to be vaccinated

Certificates can be downloaded from the Mygov website and emailed to kinder.

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. 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.
- Help your child to put their bag away and settle on the mat.
- Stay with your child until you feel they are settled and ready to say goodbye.
- Always say goodbye to your child. Leaving when they are not looking can be very distressing for young children.
- Ask about their day and remember lots more happens at kinder than the work children may or may not bring home
- Take the time to meet other families 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.
- 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.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

- Upon arrival: - Sign the Attendance book located in the foyer. Include time and who will collect the child
- Upon departure: - Sign the Attendance Book located in the foyer. Include departure time
- If for any reason you need to drop your child off late or pick them up early please notify us.
- Children will only be released to those on the Enrolment Form, authorised to collect by the parent/guardian. If for any reason someone other than those listed on the form will be collecting your child, please notify us asap and we will have you fill in the appropriate paperwork.
- If staff have not met the person collecting the child, photo identification will need to be shown
- Please note staff will open the doors to families at the beginning and end of each session

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Staff are trained in child development, trauma support and emotional guidance for children and work closely with families and other professionals to develop plans and strategies to best support children develop resilience, self-regulation, executive functioning and care for self and others.

Kindergarten is a safe space for all children to explore their identity and develop skills to be responsible and empathetic community members.

MEALS AND DRINKS

During a Kinder session children will need enough nutritious and filling food to give them energy for their busy kinder day. All children will need a drink bottle with water only.

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****

Morning Tea Routine

Morning tea is a relaxed and social time for children. It may occur seated at tables or outside on a picnic mat. Children are invited to eat when they are ready. This allows the children uninterrupted periods of play and encourages them to develop their independence to decide when they are hungry and ready to eat.

Some children are really hungry at this time and like to have lots to eat, sometimes an extra sandwich helps to fill children up. Staff will talk to you about your child's individual needs.

Lunch Routine

We have lunch as a group around 1pm. We eat outside on picnic mats or inside at the tables. Children are encouraged to eat their main meal; sandwich, pasta, salad etc., first and then finish any snacks in their lunchbox.

Special Dietary Requirements

Please discuss with staff if your child has any special dietary needs, including anaphylaxis, allergies or intolerances.

SMILES 4 MILES PROGRAM

Children participate 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.



As part of the program a dental team from Ballarat Health Services visits each 4yr old kinder group to promote dental hygiene and encourage regular dental check-ups. With parent/guardian permission a dentist looks at the child's teeth and provides feedback to families.

BUSH KINDER PROGRAM

The kinder children participate in our Bush Kinder Program in terms 2 & 3. One day a week on alternating days, we go to Pax Hill Scout Camp in the Woowookarung Regional Park. During our Bush Kinder sessions, children are free to explore the natural environment.



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. Please check regularly as this is our main form of communication with families

TOILETING

We encourage 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 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.

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
- Inform the parent/guardian of the accident upon collection of the child and have the parent/guardian sign the accident form

In the event of a major accident or illness staff will:

- Apply first Aid
- Contact the parent/guardian (or emergency contact if parent/guardians cannot be reached) to collect the child OR contact the Ambulance Service to take the child to hospital and immediately inform the parent/guardian or emergency contact

- Fill out an accident/illness form and have the parent/guardian sign the form
- If required make a report to ECKA and the Department of Education & Training

Car Park Safety

The kinder car park can be very busy. There are enough parks for all kinder families. Other parking is available on Kent Street and the surrounding area. Please be cautious and courteous when entering and exiting.

- Drive slowly when entering and exiting
- Only park in designated parking spaces. Do not park along the fence (signed no parking)
- Hold your child's hand and do not allow children to play in the car park
- Children should not be left alone in cars

****** Car park will be closed to families if not used safely ******

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

In the event of an emergency necessitating the evacuation of the Kindergarten, the Teacher and Staff will immediately take appropriate action to ensure the safety of the children, volunteers and staff. The procedure and evacuation map is displayed on each exit of the kinder.

All staff and children practice the emergency procedure each term.

Illness and Infectious Diseases

We ask all families to help us minimise the risk of spreading infections and diseases by keeping children home and notifying the Kinder when your child is ill or diagnosed with an infectious illness. If your child is too unwell to participate in the whole program, both indoors and out, or have taken paracetamol or ibuprofen in the morning, then they should be kept home until they are feeling better.

In the case of an infectious disease the child should be kept away from Kinder as per the "School exclusion table for primary schools and children's services." <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion-table>

In the event of illness staff will:

- Make the child comfortable and moved away from other children
- Contact the parent/guardian (or emergency contact if parent/guardians cannot be reached) to collect the child
- Fill out an illness form and have the parent/guardian sign the form upon collection of the child.

Medication

If your child requires medication while at Kinder, the parent/guardian will need to fill in a medication sheet detailing the name of the medication, when it was last given, the dosage last given, the time, circumstances and dosage to be given while at Kinder. Two staff will check all details of the medication before giving it to the child. Medication should be given to staff and placed on the medication cupboard or in the fridge.

Please note: Medication must be in the child's name and must be within the use by date. The child can only be given the recommended dosage as per medication or doctors written instructions.

**** Please make sure all medications including creams and ointments are removed from your child's bag****

Sun Care

We are a sun smart centre and as such follow recommendations from the Anti-Cancer Council. Children will be given their own broad brim hat that will stay at Kinder. Coles brand sunscreen will be supplied. If your child requires a different brand you will need to supply it.

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for outside play. **No singlet tops are to be worn;** children's shoulders and upper arms should be covered. If children are not clothed properly their play will

be restricted to shady areas. During first and fourth term and when the UV is 3 or higher, children will be required to wear their hat and sunscreen at all times.

Family Involvement

There are many different ways that families may contribute in and out of kindergarten sessions. For example; attending excursions, sharing a special skill or interest, attending social events or providing feedback.

During the year families and friends are invited to join us at kinder for events such as special person days, events and activities.

Please note that our parent volunteers do not need a working with children's check provided that the volunteering is in the group with your own child. Staff will fully supervise all volunteers in accordance with our volunteer and visitor policies.

Little Free Pantry & Wardrobe

In the foyer is our 'Little Free Pantry & Wardrobe.' Families are invited to take what they need and leave what they can. We encourage families experiencing food insecurity to please speak to staff.



General Information

Asthma, Anaphylaxis and Medical Conditions: If your child has been diagnosed with Asthma, Anaphylaxis or a Medical Condition you **must provide the Kinder with a Management Plan signed by your Doctor BEFORE starting kinder.** Children will not be able to start kinder without a plan and all medication at kinder

Absences: Please let staff know if your child is going to be away and the reason why. This can be done by phone, email or on Storypark

Before and After Sessions: Parent/guardians are asked to supervise their children at all times before and after sessions. Please be mindful of traffic and carpark safety at drop off and collection and that children are supervised at all times.

Birthdays: Children are welcome to bring along a birthday cake to share with the Kinder group. Or may prefer to make one with teachers and friends at kinder. Before bringing in any food items, please check with staff if there are any allergies. We usually have the birthday cake after lunch.

Bush Kinder: The children will attend Bush Kinder once a fortnight, during Terms 2 & 3. Waterproof clothing is provided. Information will be provided towards the end of Term 1.

Children's Possessions: It is preferred children do not bring in items from home, however at times children may want to show or may be attached to particular items. If possible, please clearly name the item. Inform staff that the child has brought something in. Although all care is taken with children's possessions

accidents can happen, for this reason we suggest very special items are left at home or given to staff to put in the office.

Clothing: Children should wear comfortable clothing that they are able to move freely in and get dirty in. Some paints do stain clothing (and we love mud and water!) A complete change of clothing including socks, underwear, singlet, t-shirt and pants should be packed in the child's bag. Check the kinder bag after each session for any wet or dirty clothing. Please name all items of clothing including hats, coats and jumpers. As we go outside in all weather, children will require a coat during colder months.

NOTE: children should not wear thongs, crocs, slip ons or party shoes as these are too dangerous for running and climbing activities. Runners and gumboots are best for kinder play. SINGLET TOPS ARE NOT TO BE WORN children's shoulders must be covered

Communication: Parent/guardians are welcome to talk to the teacher about their child, the program, concerns and suggestions. As drop off and pick up can be very busy times, parents/guardians are invited to make an appointment at a mutually convenient time. Families can phone, email or contact staff on Storypark. Communication will only be answered during work hours.

Excursions/Centre Events: Each year a variety of centre events and excursions are planned for the children. Events and excursions will vary from year to year depending on the interests of the children and their developmental needs. Teachers will complete a risk assessment before each event and a copy will be provided to families via Storypark.

Please note not all excursions/events are suitable for siblings to attend.

Gate: The gate is to remain closed at all times. **Only let your child out of the gate.** Please do not let children climb or swing on the gate.



Immunisation Certificates: We must have a copy of your child's Immunisation Certificate before they start kinder. No child will be allowed to start without one. Certificates can be downloaded from the Mygov website and emailed to the kindergarten or printed from the Medicare office

Junk and 2nd Hand Materials: Children enjoy all sorts of items to use in the art area including; boxes, tubes, cardboard, paper, off cuts, corks, plastic, lids etc. Please feel free to bring these items in. We especially enjoy unusual items you may be able to source from your work place such as; plastic rings, cylinders, laminate squares, milk crates, samples, paper, envelopes, cards etc. We can also use items such as pots and pans, spoons, trays, utensils, school uniforms, tyres, toys, dress ups, outdoor equipment etc. For our tinkering area we love old DVD player, clocks, computers, radios etc. If you are unsure, please talk to staff.

Library: At the beginning of the year each child will decorate a library bag. Children are then able to borrow up to 2 books at a time. We encourage all children to borrow a book at least once a week. Library bags are placed in the basket in the foyer to be changed. If a book is lost or damaged parent/guardians are asked to replace the book with; a new book, one from the op shop or pay \$10 to replace the book.

Lost Property: All effort is made to ensure property and clothing is returned to the right child. You can assist us by:

- making sure all clothing, lunchboxes, drink bottles etc are named
- returning any items that don't belong to your child

Notice Board: Please read the notice board in the foyer regularly as it displays upcoming events, important dates, changes to the program, items of interest and reminders.

Notice Box: Each child has a file in the Notice Box in the foyer with their first name on it. Notices, Fee Invoices and artwork are all placed in the box. Please check with staff before putting anything such as birthday invites, party plans or advertisements into the pockets.

Parking: The kinder carpark provides limited parking for kinder families. Please be patient when entering and exiting through the gate. There is limited vision when exiting, so please move slowly and watch for pedestrians. Hold your child's hand and look out for children at all times

Photos: We take photos of children to display around the room and create stories for Storypark.

A professional photographer takes individual photos and a group photo during the year, which are available for families to purchase.

Families are usually permitted to take photos and video recordings of their child during sessions and at events. Please check with staff first.

Policies: Are available online at the ECKA website: <https://ecka.org.au/>

Scholastic Book Club: Parent/guardians can purchase books from the catalogues given out every few months. A percentage of sales are given back to the Kinder to purchase books and equipment from scholastic.

Security: The front door of the kinder will always be locked. Please ring the doorbell or phone the kinder on 5335 8459 and a staff member will meet you at the door. Never let a child (other than your own) out of the kinder doors.

Siblings: Siblings are welcome at the kindergarten however they must be supervised at all times by the parent/guardian. Staff are not responsible for siblings.

Storypark: Storypark is an online platform allowing us to share photos, stories, newsletters etc with families. You will receive an email in November inviting you to join.

Sunscreen: Coles brand sunscreen is used at kinder. If your child requires a different brand, it will need to be supplied.

