



Mt Gambier
Children's
Centre
for Early Childhood
Development and Parenting

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30 January Week 1, Term 1, 2017

WELCOME

A warm welcome to all our families, old and new from all at the Mount Gambier Children's Centre. We have a total of 62 children enrolled at Kindy. We will provide Occasional Care on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and also welcome families to join us for Playgroup on Friday mornings.

Staff have been busy planning together to ensure a smooth start to the term; organising resources and setting up the learning environment. We look forward to working with you in the care and education of your children and welcome your suggestions, contributions and feedback.

Session Times

Morning session: 8.45am to 11.45 am

Lunch care: 11.45am to 12noon

Afternoon session: 12noon to 3pm

Staff will commence beginning of day duties at 8.35am and be busy preparing for the morning session and also need to complete required safety inspections. Parents need to stay with their child until the session begins at 8.45. The staff roster is on the parent board for your information.

Settling into Kindy

The first few weeks at Kindy are a valuable settling in time, where one of the most important things we do is get to know each other. Building good relationships with each other is essential to develop that positive sense of belonging that allows all of us to grow confidently both as individuals and community members. Children firstly belong to their families, and to help create a secure connection between kindy and home, we invite you to post a picture of your family on our family tree. *Pets are also a very important part of our lives – don't forget to add them to your family shots!*

Please update address/phone details and medical records if these have changed over the new year.

Tues. 21 Feb. Kindy Acquaintance Evening

4.45pm to 5pm Information Session

5pm to 5.30pm Kindergarten Open Session

Rainbow Fruit /Vegetable platter to share

Children's Centre Staff

We welcome Gabriella Knogl who will be working on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. She has a Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education and is an experienced preschool teacher including 19 years as a kindergarten teacher in Germany, working with young Aboriginal families on the APY Lands and as a preschool teacher at Community Kids. Gabriella is passionate about early childhood education, including a child-initiated approach, social constructivism, art, wellbeing and communicating with families. She will make a great addition to our dynamic team and we look forward to a great year ahead.



Staff for 2017:

Pauline Bosco (Director, Education and Care)

Michele Hall, Sue Graney and Gabriella Knogl (Teachers)

Lauren Lowe, Chris Hassam, Rebecca Smith (SSO)

Brooke Millard (Occasional Care Coordinator)

Fiona Pulford (Triple P Coordinator)

Kelly Williams (Family Services Coordinator)

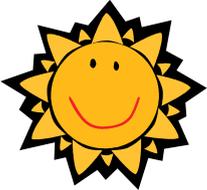


Car Park Safety

Parents are not to park in the staff car park. Car parks are available for families on Mulga Street and Willow Street.

Parents are advised to support road safety behaviours when arriving/ leaving Kindy. Please hold your child's hand and follow the safe crossing walkways - do not allow your child to run ahead and cross the roadway unassisted.

Sun Smart



Your child's health and safety is very important to us. We wish to advise families of our Sun Smart Policy on the Parent Information Board and centre website.

Parents are asked to please:

- Apply sunscreen to children on arrival (staff will re-apply sunscreen after lunch time)
- Ensure your child has their own hat to wear each day so they can play freely outside.
- Provide a bottle of water
- Pack a change of clothes (as we will be having lots of water activities)

Please label all belongings including lunch containers, drink bottle, hat, kindy bag, clothes etc.

Healthy Eating – What to pack?

Please provide a **nutrient rich lunchbox** and limit processed / packaged snacks to **one** a day as per healthy eating guidelines.



Please pack fresh fruit for each session that your child attends – two pieces for a full day.

We are a nut aware centre – please do not send peanut butter, nutella and muesli bars.

We generally have a child attending with a nut allergy and thank you for your assistance.

Parents are welcome to help place children's lunches in the fridge.

Library Borrowing

The kindy children have the opportunity to borrow books from the school library each Monday at 1.35pm and Thursday at 10am.



You are also welcome to personally visit the library and borrow books with your child at other times (please see staff if you need assistance). Please provide a draw string library bag for your child to protect the books.

Reading to your child is one of the best gifts that you can give. Reading stories each day with your child develops early language and literacy skills along with the joy and loving bond created by sharing time together.

WOW ...

Our Preschool Community is working to Wipe Out Waste.

Please bring in any recyclable boxes, washed milk cartons and yoghurt containers, cardboard tubes (not toilet rolls), gift wrap paper, silver trays etc. As part of the children's environmental awareness and sustainability practices we also collect and wash all their recyclable containers at kindy. Fruit and food scraps are collected each day and taken by the school students to make compost as part of our combined efforts with Mulga Street Primary School to wipe out waste.

National Quality Standard

We understand that parents want the best for their children and so embrace the National Quality Standard as an important part of ensuring that our service provides quality early childhood education and care to make a positive contribution to children's learning and provide the foundation together for a brighter future. Mount Gambier Children's Centre Policies and Procedures are available in the folder on the Sign-in table and on the centre website: www.mountgambiercc.sa.edu.au

ACECQA - Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority

ACECQA has launched **Starting Blocks** It aims to provide you and your family with trusted information on early childhood education and care, all in one place. Find out more at www.startingblocks.gov.au

Curriculum

The national Early Years Learning Framework 'Belonging, Being, Becoming' guides our educator principles, practice and outlines learning outcomes to develop children's sense of identity, community, well-being, learning and communication. The weekly program guide is displayed on the program board and updates are provided in our newsletters - you are welcome to contribute ideas and feedback.



As educators we recognise the importance of children feeling safe, secure and supported and work actively to help children develop a positive and confident sense of identity that will assist them to make successful transitions; including from home to

Kindy, childcare / occasional care to Kindy and beginning transitions to school. Over the first few weeks we will focus on building positive relationships and incorporate fun getting to know you songs and activities to help the children settle into Kindy securely.

**Yours in Education and Care,
The Children's Centre Team**