



Gum Nut Preschool & Childcare

Magpie Room Information Booklet

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land where we learn and play, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



9499 4410

office@gumnutpreschool.com.au

www.gumnutpreschool.com.au



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our 3 year old Kinder program	01
Bush Kinder Program	02
Our Routine	04
General Information	05
Parent Communication and Contact Details	07

WELCOME TO THE MAGPIE ROOM

Welcome to the Magpie Room, where learning and play come together to nurture the growth and development of your child. Our 3-year-old program is designed to create a supportive and stimulating environment, fostering a love for learning through play-based experiences. Here's a detailed overview of our program, highlighting our focus on foundational skills, socialisation, and the holistic development of your little one. We also include our unique off-site component aimed at preparing children for the exciting adventures in our 4-year-old bush kinder program.

Our program takes play-based learning to the next level by gradually introducing more structured routines. We focus on finding the right balance between freedom and organisation, creating a space where children can explore and learn at their own pace, while also starting to understand the value of structure and predictability. This phase is all about making learning fun and engaging, while also helping children develop important skills like responsibility, routine-following, and time management. We believe that by combining a joyful, flexible environment with some helpful structure, we can set kids up for success, both now and in the future.

EYLF-Informed Curriculum

Our planning process is deeply reflective of the EYLF, incorporating the five essential elements of identity, community, learning, communication, and well-being. These elements guide our educators in creating a balanced and comprehensive curriculum that addresses the holistic development of each child.

What is Play-Based Learning?

Play-based learning involves activities that are child-directed, allowing them to explore, experiment, and discover at their own pace. It includes both structured and unstructured play, incorporating elements like imaginative play, sensory experiences, and problem-solving.

The Importance of Play-Based Learning:

- *Cognitive Development: Play stimulates brain development, enhancing memory, language skills, and cognitive abilities.*
- *Social and Emotional Growth: Through play, children learn to share, cooperate, and navigate social relationships, fostering emotional intelligence.*
- *Motor skills: Activities like stacking blocks or crawling contribute to the development of fine and gross motor skills.*
- *Curiosity and Creativity: Play encourages curiosity, imagination, and creativity, laying the foundation for a love of learning.*

OUR 3-YEAR OLD KINDER PROGRAM

Goals of the Program

- *Foundational Skills:* Lay the groundwork for cognitive development through play-based learning and exploration of basic concepts.
- *Socialisation:* Foster a sense of belonging, community, and cooperation through group activities and play
- *Emotional Development:* Provide a supportive environment for children to express and manage their emotions, building emotional intelligence.
- *Physical Development:* Develop both fine and gross motor skills through a variety of activities, both indoors and outdoors.

Social and Emotional Development

We emphasise the importance of building positive relationships with peers, sharing, and expressing emotions. Our dedicated educators support children in developing a strong sense of identity and belonging.

Language and Literacy

We focus on nurturing a love for books through engaging story-time and rhyming activities. Play-based learning introduces basic vocabulary and early literacy skills like recognising their names.

Art and Creativity

Our approach involves hands-on arts and crafts to enhance imagination and self-expression. Children explore various materials, promoting fine motor skill development and fostering creativity. Together, these activities provide a holistic foundation for well-rounded early childhood development.

Outdoor Play

We have a big emphasis on immersive nature play, designed to connect children with their surroundings through activities like nature walks, sensory exploration, and gardening.

Culture, Celebrations and Festivals

Throughout the year, we celebrate various cultural events and festivals, promoting diversity and cultural awareness.

Enrichment Through Incursions

To further enrich and extend the children's interests, we regularly incorporate incursions into our program. These experiences, led by external experts or educators with specialised knowledge, provide hands-on opportunities for the children to delve deeper into subjects that capture their curiosity.

Individual Observation Planning Records

Every child's unique developmental journey is meticulously recorded through Individual Observation Planning Records. These records serve as a valuable tool for our educators to track each child's progress, tailor activities to their specific needs, and ensure a personalised approach to learning.



INTRO INTO BUSH KINDER PROGRAM

Before the off-site program begins, we'll begin with some road safety lessons to make sure the kids understand how to stay safe while out and about. We'll cover things like following simple instructions, understanding basic traffic rules, and how to stay aware of their surroundings when walking in the neighborhood. The idea is to make sure they're confident and prepared before we head out.

For the first few trips, we'll stick to quieter residential streets instead of busy roads, so the children can practice their skills in a safe, low-traffic environment. This approach helps them get comfortable with the idea of walking outside and gradually build their confidence.

The program will start once the children are ready, with the first few sessions taking place once a week. As they gain more experience and confidence, we'll slowly increase the frequency, aiming to eventually reach a maximum of three times a week. This way, we can ensure that each child has enough time to adjust and develop their skills at a pace that works for them. The goal is to create a fun, safe, and educational experience while gradually increasing their independence.

Walking Adventures:

- Phase 1 - Around the centre: supervised walks around the preschool, introducing children to the concept of walking in a group.
- Phase 2 - Down the street and back: Gradual extension of walking distance to build stamina and familiarise children with the surrounding streets.
- Phase 3 - Circle Walk: Walking down the street, making a circle, and returning to the centre, promoting directional understanding
- Phase 4 - Alphington Park playground: Guided walks to Alphington Park playground, fostering independence and reinforcing road safety principles.

Goals of the Off-Site Program:

- Building Resilience: Through exposure to new environments and challenges, children will develop resilience and adaptability.
- Following Simple Instructions: Practicing basic instructions during walks and excursions will enhance the children's ability to follow directions.
- Understanding Road Safety: Introduction to road safety principles in a controlled environment, promoting awareness and safety consciousness.
- Physical Stamina: Gradual increases in walking distances and outdoor activities aim to build physical stamina in preparation for more extended adventures.



Things your child will need to participate in the program based on weather condition:

Weather condition	Warm / Hot	Cold / Wet
<p>Reccomended clothing & footwear</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • light, loose fitting long sleeve top (T-shirt is acceptable) • Short or long pants • Sun smart broad-brimmed hat • Closed toe shoes • Sunscreen has been applied to all exposed skin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterproof raincoat (can be kept at Gum Nut) • Long pants • Long sleeved top • Beanie • Gloves • Tall Gumboots (can be kept at Gum Nut) • Thermals are recommended in very cold weather
<p>Not Acceptable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open toed shoes • Sandals • Thongs • Crocs • Singlet tops • Sleeveless dresses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non waterproof outer clothing
<p>Other Required Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labelled water bottle (must be taken home each day and washed) • A carry bag • A change of clothes in their bag everyday (underwear, socks, top & bottoms) • A wet bag 	

Off-site Sessions Guidelines:

- Flexible Timing
- No pre-set times; flexibility based on the day's events.
- Offsite departure anytime from 8.45 am, returning by 3.30 pm.

Weather and Sun Smart Policy

- Gum Nut's policy applies; ensure children are appropriately dressed for weather conditions.
- Be prepared for extended outdoor activities.

Teacher Accompaniment

- 2-3 teachers will always accompany children during park sessions.

Well-Resourced Program

- Abundant resources provided, including music, literacy, numeracy, and art activities even outdoors.

Restricted Personal Items

- No home toys or valuables from children allowed during Explore and Learn programs.

Parent Participation

- Parents are always welcome to join Explore and Learn. Please lets the teachers know in advance.

OUR ROUTINE

Time	At Gum Nut
7:30 am	Family Grouping commences in the Wombat Room (Breakfast served until 8:00 am)
8:15 am	Head down to Large garden for outdoor play
8:45 am	Proceed to Magpie Room
9:00 am	Acknowledgement of Country & Group Time
9:30 am	Morning Tea, Learning Activities & Experiences
11:30 am	Progressive Lunch (Indoor and Outdoor activities continue)
1:00 pm	Rest time (Yoga / Meditation)
1:45 pm	Activities & Experiences continued
2:30 pm	Group time - Reflection of the day
3:00 pm	Afternoon Tea
4:30 pm	Return to Family Grouping
6:00 pm	Centre close

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please remember to sign your child in and out each day (via iPad)

CLOTHING

- Ensure your child is dressed appropriately for exploration; spare clothes for messy play or accidents.
- Pack cool attire for summer and a jacket, beanie, and gumboots for Bush Kinder

FOOTWEAR

- Closed footwear or sandals that cover toes preferred; avoid thongs or crocs for safety during outdoor activities.

MEALS

- Morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea are provided by Gum Nut. Lunchboxes are discouraged until School Readiness Week unless for dietary reasons.

ALLERGIES:

- Bring a treat box if your child has allergies. All medications must be left at Gum Nut with an action plan from a doctor.

SUNSCREEN:

- Kinder will supply sunscreen unless allergies require you to provide your own. Apply sunscreen before/upon arrival daily.

HATS

- Bulk order of hats for each child; labelled and kept at kinder. Magpie room hats are not to go home; always keep them in your child's hat pocket.

DRINK BOTTLES:

- Labelled bottles to be brought daily and taken home to wash; at least 600ml.

COMFORT ITEMS

- We recognise and value the importance of providing a sense of comfort to children at. As such, children are welcome to bring personal items such as soft toys or blankets. Once acclimated to their environment, these personal items will be securely stored in their child's bag until the end of the day.

TOYS

- Comfort toys are welcomed but encouraged to be put away in bags once settled.
- While we understand the significance of comfort items from home, it is essential to emphasise that our program is meticulously designed to offer a rich and engaging experience for all children. To enhance your child's participation, we strive to minimise potential distractions.

LOST PROPERTY:

- Check the lost property tub regularly; unlabelled items will be donated monthly.

It is important to note that our dedicated educators cannot assume responsibility for any lost or damaged personal items. We sincerely appreciate your understanding and cooperation in creating an environment conducive to optimal learning for all.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

We communicate weekly updates on your child's activities and upcoming plans through our private Facebook group. Additionally, room and center events will be shared via both Facebook and email.

For daily activities, a dedicated board in the room will keep you informed.

EMAILS:

Please check this often and keep us informed of email changes.

Magpie email address is for planning purposes only, any other information (e.g. change of days, illnesses etc must be emailed to Office)

MAGPIE EMAIL:

magpieroom_gumnut@outlook.com (for program communication only)

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Available in the office and some on the parent portal for reference.

CONTACT DETAILS

Office Phone: 9499 4410

Email: office@gumnutpreschool.com.au