



# Gum Nut Preschool & Childcare

## Wombat 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.*



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# WELCOME TO THE WOMBAT ROOM

Welcome to the Wombat Room at Gum Nut Preschool and Childcare! We are delighted to have your child as part of our childcare community. This information booklet is designed to provide you with essential details about the Wombat Room and our approach to childcare for children aged 18 months to 2.4 years old.

The Wombat Room focuses on creating a nurturing environment that promotes social, emotional and cognitive development. Our dedicated team of educators strives to provide a safe and stimulating atmosphere where your child can explore, learn, and grow.

## KEY FEATURES

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01

### **Safe and Comfortable Environment**

Our room is designed to provide a secure and inviting space where children feel safe and at ease.

02

### **Experienced and Caring Staff**

Our team of educators are experienced and passionate about early childhood development, ensuring your child receives the best care and attention.

03

### **Play-Based Learning**

We believe in the power of play as a fundamental tool for learning. Play-based learning is an approach where children engage in activities that are enjoyable and meaningful, fostering creativity, curiosity, and a love for exploration. 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.

04

### Teaching Respect and Values

Our curriculum includes lessons on respect, kindness, and values to instill positive behaviour and social skills in every child.

- *Respecting People* In the Wombat Room, we introduce age-appropriate concepts of respect towards peers, educators, and the broader community. Through activities like sharing, taking turns, and group play, children learn to understand and appreciate the feelings and perspectives of others.
- *Respecting the Environment* We instill a sense of environmental responsibility in our little ones by incorporating activities that teach them about caring for the world around them. Simple tasks, such as picking up toys and recycling, are introduced to promote a sense of responsibility towards the environment.
- *Respecting Aboriginal Land of Australia* We acknowledge and respect the rich cultural heritage of Australia's Aboriginal people. Age-appropriate discussions and activities are woven into our curriculum to introduce children to the traditional custodianship of the land. This includes learning about native animals, plants, and engaging in art activities inspired by Aboriginal culture.
- *Linking to Sustainability* Even at this young age, children can begin to understand the importance of sustainability. Through play-based activities like planting seeds, watering plants, and sorting recyclables, we foster a connection to nature and teach the basics of caring for the planet. Our focus is on instilling values that will contribute to a sustainable future.

05

### Developmentally Appropriate Activities

We offer a range of age-appropriate activities to stimulate cognitive, motor, and social development through play-based learning.

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### Daily Communication

We maintain open and transparent communication with parents through daily updates (board) and weekly reflections (Facebook) ensuring you are informed about your child's experiences and milestones.

07

### Outdoor Exploration

We emphasise the importance of outdoor play and exploration, providing opportunities for physical activity and a connection with the natural world.

## OUR PLANNING

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In the Wombat room, we create intentional and engaging learning environments. We purposely and thoughtfully set up learning experiences under these key learning areas;

- Dramatic play
- Sensory
- Construction
- Art/collage
- Reading area
- Nature/Sustainability/Outdoor

Importantly: at this age we are following each individual's routine from home and encourage their developing motor skills and support their emotional development.

When planning, educators set specific goals related to your child's age and stage of development. With this knowledge, educators plan intentional teaching moments to scaffold your child's learning. At the end of each term, an individual observation planning record will be emailed to you with your child's individual goals under one or more of the following areas:

- Community (Social)
- Identity (Emotional)
- Learning (Cognitive)
- Communication (Language)
- Wellbeing (Physical)

Under each area/s, educators will document what they have observed, the goal they want your child to achieve, the intent and strategies the educators will put in place to assist your child to achieve this goal and a reflection of how your child is progressing with the goal.

Remember everyone learns and develops at different stages, your child might not achieve their goal in the first term and that is ok. Our planning enables children to learn and develop at their own pace.

If there is anything you would like your child to learn or focus on, please feel free to speak to staff in the room.

## OUR ROUTINE

Our routine is very flexible, as it is based around each child's individual routines and rituals.

7:30 am	Family Grouping commences in the Wombat Room (Breakfast served until 8:00 am)
8:45 am	Wombats transition into their room program – Indoor/outdoor
9:00 am	Morning Tea
10:00 am	Outdoor program (weather permitting). Nappy changes.
11:00 am	Transition to lunch time (Menu displayed in room)
11:30 am	Prepare children for sleep/rest time.
1:30 pm	Nappy changes, indoor/outdoor program
3:00 pm	Afternoon tea (varying: sandwiches/crackers/scones/fresh fruit etc) Prepare children for outdoor play (unless already outdoors)
3:30 pm	Indoor/Outdoor Program
4:00 pm	Indoor/Outdoor play continues. Nappy changes.
5:15 pm	Kinder House children join us for family grouping.
6:00 pm	Centre Closes.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## **Sign In and Out**

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

## **Clothing**

Please ensure your child is dressed for fun and exploration in the environment. Please do not send your child in clothes you don't want them to get paint or dirt on. Please pack SPARE clothes (pants, t-shirt, underwear, socks) in case of messy play or toileting accidents. Please remember cool clothes and a hat for summer and a jacket and beanie for winter (gumboots too if you have them). All clothing items should be clearly labelled.

## **Footwear**

At Gum Nut we love to climb and run so please ensure closed footwear or sandals that cover toes – it is our preference you do not send child in flip flops or crocs as they can lose grip and are not appropriate for outdoor activities.

## **Nappies**

Please ensure your child has a minimum of 5 nappies or pull-ups on the days your child attends Gum Nut. If your child is toilet training but they still required a nappy or pull-up for sleep time, please ensure there are some in your child's bag.

## **Meals**

Morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea are provided by Gum Nut. It is our preference children are eating lunch from Gum Nut only, unless for a particular dietary reason you have to supply your own foods.

## **Anaphylaxis/Allergies/Asthma**

All medication must be left at Gum Nut with appropriate action plan from a doctor. Please see educators if this applies to you. Your child cannot and will not be accepted without the proper medications, plans etc.

## **Hats**

Please ensure your child has an appropriate sun hat (wide brim or legionnaires) from September - April clearly labelled with their name. No Hat - No Outdoor Play

## **Sunscreen**

Please ensure you have applied sunscreen on your child prior to attending the centre. The Koala educators will apply more sunscreen throughout the day with our centre's sunscreen, unless due to allergies or personal choice you supply your own.

## **Water & Milk Bottles/Sipper Cups**

Must be clearly labelled and brought to Gum Nut on the days your child attends, then taken home at the end of the day to be washed and returned. If your child is drinking cow's/alternative milk from the centre, please be advised because of health and cross contamination, we would like it if you could provide your own sipper cup. If you are bringing breast milk, please label it and place it in the fridge on arrival each day. (please provide an insulated bag)

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## **Comforter and Home Toys**

We acknowledge that children may find comfort in bringing personal items such as toys or blankets to Gum Nut. Once they have acclimated to their environment, the personal item securely stored in their child's bag until the end of the day. While we understand the significance of comfort items from home, we would like to emphasise that our program is designed to provide a rich and engaging experience for all children. To optimise your child's participation, we aim to minimise distractions. It is important to note that our educators cannot assume responsibility for any lost or damaged personal items. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in creating a conducive learning environment for all.

## **Lost Property**

Please check our lost property tub regularly. Unlabelled items in the tub will be donated to a charity bin at the end of each month.

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

Wombat Email: wombatroom\_gumnut@outlook.com