

Welcome to Orroroo Kindergarten.

We are delighted to have your child attending our centre and hope that you and your family enjoy your time with us.

Our present Kindergarten was established in 1981 and is the result of the hard work and the initiative of many parents in the district. Since then, the parents and staff have worked together to upgrade facilities, renew equipment and improve the preschool experience of our children.

Today the building and resources reflect the contributions made over the years. We greatly value those contributions and continue to encourage parental input.

If you have any queries, suggestions, feedback or difficulties please do not hesitate to approach the kindy staff.

Preschool Programme

Our kindy currently operates as a .4 centre offering 4 sessions per week for four year olds. Sessions currently run from:

8.30am—3.15pm on Tuesdays & Thursdays each week and *also on alternate* Wednesdays in the 'EVEN' weeks of the school term in terms 3 & 4.

All children 4 years of age before May 1st, 2015 are welcome to attend from Jan 2015.

Children may have 4 terms from Jan 2015, of kindy before starting school. They may also attend 1 session per week of *Pre-entry*, for the term prior to this. Pre-entry is held on *Thursday mornings* from *8.30am—11.30am*.

Our aim is to provide a quality curriculum and a safe, creative environment for our pre-school children.

What to Bring

Children are asked to bring **a packed lunch, morning snack and a piece of fruit**. The extra piece of fruit is placed in the fruit bowl near the door as children arrive, cut up later in the afternoon and shared at afternoon fruit time. Water in a named drink bottle would be appreciated. We will top it up as needed at kindy. A fridge is available if children need to keep things cold. We also have a microwave oven, if you wish us to heat something for lunch. Please try to keep lunches as **healthy** as possible and ensure that your child's lunch box and kindy bag are clearly labelled. We ask you **not** to send lollies or high sugar snacks, to kindy as part of our **healthy food policy**.

Sun Safety

We also require children to bring **named hats** to kindy for wearing outside during playtime. Hats need to be **broad brimmed or Legionnaire style**. We ask also that you apply sunscreen to your child in the morning. We will reapply it at lunch time particularly in terms 1 and 4.

Fees

Kindy fees are set by the Management Committee and are used to help cover the cost of consumable materials, renew equipment and other general expenses incurred in running the centre. Current fees are set at \$55.00 per term and should be paid to the Director as soon as possible after invoices are issued at the beginning of each term. When paying fees, or any money, please place it in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with your **name and purpose of payment**. If your child will not be attending a majority of sessions or if you are having difficulty meeting these costs, please speak to the Director to make alternative arrangements.

Arrival

When you and your child arrive at kindy please bring your child into the building, help him/her to put their bag away and greet the staff so that we are aware of your child's arrival. Parents of bus children need to organise an older 'minder' from their bus to escort their child from the school bus to kindy each morning.

Uniform

We have fleecy lined rugby tops (blue and red) and polo T-shirts (blue, pink and red), in two sizes all printed with the Kindy logo. These are not compulsory, but may be a help in deciding what to wear to kindy and are available for \$22 / T-shirt and \$28 / rugby top. Please just ask staff if you'd like to look at, or purchase, some Kindy clothing.

Library

Books are an important tool for use in child development and we encourage children to borrow every 2nd Tuesday from the school library. The librarian *reads some stories* to the children and then they are encouraged to borrow 1-2 books each Tuesday visit (when the previous books have been returned).

We suggest that as a family, you take the time to read these books with your child, involving them in the story as much as possible. Please also teach them how to care for their books and most of all enjoy them!

We supply a *book bag* for each child's books, whilst at kindy. Please return it when your child leaves Kindy for washing and re labelling. Books can be returned into the *Library box* by the entrance.

Literacy Kits

We have approx. 30 Literacy Kits for borrowing. They are hanging on the rail in the Occasional Care room. Simply fill in your name, the number and title of the Story Kit, in the book hanging at the end of the trolley. They do need to be supervised as they have many parts and we need them to be returned with the contents as listed on the front of the bag. If something is missing, please attach a note to the bag or let us know so that we can replace the missing items. **We want them to be enjoyed by as many families as possible.**

Communication

This is a key factor in running a successful Kindergarten. We have several ways of communicating to you what is happening at Kindy

- Term Calendar
- Newsletters (fortnightly)
- Individual notes
- Children's Special Profile Book sent home for 2 nights at the end of terms 1, 2 and 3
- Parent/teacher interviews
- Informal chats at arrival /pick up time
- Phone calls to Kindy/home
- Notes from you to us
- Notice boards with Flinders Region and Community events, on the door of the Adult bathroom and in the porch above the children's bags

For Communication to work best, it needs to be **two way**, so we appreciate feedback, comments and questions at all times. We look forward to communicating with you!

Curriculum

The Kindy curriculum is based on the Early Years Learning Framework -EYLF.

It is a *Play based* program focusing each term on several Learning Areas. *Literacy, Numeracy and Well Being* are key focus areas for the Orroroo Kindy.

The *Quality Improvement Plan* on the kitchen bench includes an overview of the Kindy program. The plan is flexible so that we continually review the children's needs and plan accordingly.

Reporting—We regularly observe and plan for each child and monitor their progress keeping a Profile or 'Special book' that each child receives at the end of their last Kindy term, along with a **Summative Report**. We send the Special Book home at the end of terms 1,2 and 3, so that you can see your child's progress. Interviews are arranged at the end of these terms also. An outline of the Early Years Framework (EYLF) framework is included at the front of this book.

Throughout the kindy and in the Site Learning Plan Folder we have published **posters** outlining the **Learning outcomes** that are the purpose of the various play areas inside and outside at kindy.

Each fortnight in the newsletter we tell you about the previous fortnight and outline the program for the coming fortnight as well as other Kindy events coming up.

If you need any other information about the kindy program please ask.

Parent input in the past has included the bringing of animals to visit. We have had lizards, a joey, a possum, an echidna, hatching chickens, yabbies, a tree frog and a piglet! Others have contributed: books, pictures/ photos, models (a stuffed baby crocodile even!), computer ideas and music. If you can add to this we would love to hear from you.

Parent Library

We have a small Parent Library available for **your** use, which has magazines, books, and DVD's about many aspects of *parenting*. These are situated on the wooden shelf near the children's lunch box shelves. We also have many pamphlets from DECD (Department of Education and Child Development), with information about starting Kindy, starting school, Special needs and Healthy Lifestyle issues. Please ask if you'd like more information on any of these topics.

Home Toys

We generally feel it is best if children do not bring their own toys and precious things from home. If however your child insists on bringing something from home or it is an advised **SHOW AND TELL** day, please ensure that it is clearly identifiable and preferably unbreakable. Photos are a great talking point and terrific for Show and Tell. We usually give this opportunity to discuss their experiences in a small group in **weeks 4 and 8** of each term. It will be on the Kindy calendar.

Collecting Your Child

We need to ensure that children arrive at Kindy and get home again safely. If someone other than you or your partner will be collecting your child regularly, please introduce them to the staff. If special arrangements are made for a particular day please advise staff of them. In this way we can ensure that children go where they are supposed to go, when they leave us. We escort all *bus children* to their appropriate school bus at the end of each Kindy day.

Parent/Caregiver Support

In order for our centre to run smoothly and effectively we do require some parental support. There are various ways in which you can lend your support to the Kindy and assist with it's operation.

Cleaning is never the most pleasant job but it is a necessary one. All parents/caregivers are asked to assist with the weekly cleaning of the children's bathroom at the centre and a roster will be sent home (at the beginning of each term) to advise you of when you are required to clean. A full clean on Thursday is now done by a contract cleaner. You may need to collect the key from the Director, when you need to clean. For security reasons please sign in and out of the *visitor's folder* (on the kitchen bench) and fill in the *'key' date of borrowing* on the 2nd page. If you cannot clean when you are rostered, please arrange to swap with someone else. Your help is very much appreciated.

Fundraising Throughout the year there are various fund raising activities held and your support with these would be greatly appreciated. We would love to hear if you have any ideas for novel fundraising events.

Working Bees are another area in which your help would be greatly appreciated. These are generally held about twice a year and tend to deal with Kindy maintenance, cleaning, gardening and whatever else needs to be done. We discuss the needs and dates at Parent meetings.

Management Committee meets twice a term. The meetings are held at Kindy, at the end of a session at 3.30pm, (usually weeks 3 and 8 of each term). We encourage you to attend these meetings to hear about what is going on in the Kindy community and to offer suggestions. It is a great opportunity to share ideas, contribute to the curriculum and have input into the management of your child's centre.

Sharing Your Skills and Abilities We welcome parent involvement in our program and encourage you to share your skills with the children. If you love to garden, cook, sew, play music, tell stories, use the computer, you can come and share those gifts with a very forgiving and uncritical group of young people. We welcome programming ideas and will endeavour to include them in a developmentally appropriate way.

Of course nobody can help out with everything all of the time and nobody is expected to do so. Your support in whatever way you can give it, will always be very welcome and highly appreciated.

Please feel free to come along at any time to join in, or just sit and watch . If you would like an in depth chat with the Director about the centre or your child, please arrange a time to speak with her after Kindy.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask!

Once again, we warmly welcome you and your family to our centre and hope that your time with us is both enjoyable and rewarding. We look forward to a happy and productive association with you.



Take care that only the children in your care exit with you through the gates.

We are a smoke free site,
Including the outside area.

**For further enquiries:
Contact the Director,
Ros Bowman on 86581008
Tuesdays and Thursdays.**