

Within the kindergarten's play-based curriculum how is the development of early learning, particularly within the literacy and numeracy domains, supported?

Our play based program is built on children's interests and direction. We use their interests in everyday experiences, as well as intentional teaching experiences to enhance and encourage specific learning areas.

- Literacy is an important part of our program. We use stories that have a meaning to promote wellbeing, respect and inclusion, and provide each child with opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings relating to the story and its purpose. Literacy is a part of our arts and craft experiences, using this for children to express and use their imaginations to create art works. Imagination helps create a child's confidence to explore new areas of learning.
- Numeracy is implemented in all experiences - in construction building to games using counting, in measurement of speed for riding bikes safely on the outdoor bike track, to water play and wood work experiences. All whilst having fun.

What does the kindergarten program look like in regards to routine/s and flexibility?

Our program is very flexible to accommodate each child's needs and ideas. We use a routine guide for meal times, but this can change to meet children's needs if they are hungry and needing morning tea or lunch at an earlier time. At times it will change from being inside to outside by children's choice. Terms 1 and 4 we begin the day outside before the day is too warm and the UV index is high. Terms 2 and 3 we begin our day inside due to the mornings being cold. These are guides but are flexible to change. We still use the outdoor area when raining as the large undercover area around the building provides a great space for play experiences. We supply each child with a wide brim hat for sun protection and during the colder times they each have their own beanie and scarf for outdoor play.

What type of excursions/incursions are included and how are these experiences linked to the kindergarten program?

Throughout the year we experience excursions and incursions into our program to provide a new learning environment.

INCURSIONS: North East Health Dental van for dental care.

Pet Awareness Program teaches how to approach a dog safely

Flying Book Worm is a literacy program that provides a new way of story telling using drama. This program allows children to be a part of the show in playing a character from a story. This is at time also an excursion that we share with another rural kinder, sometimes at their kinder.

Little Kickers promotes gross motor coordination using ball skill games.

Visits from the local Police, Wangaratta Men's Shed and an Indigenous community member who shares stories and dances.

EXCURSIONS: Traffic School for road safety, Woolworths tour

Live theatre shows

Town visit to the post office and vet.

Weekly Bush kinder program in terms 2 and 3.

How does this kindergarten support the needs of children who are experiencing difficulty separating from their parent and/or the additional needs of children?

We support the needs of each child with providing a warm, friendly environment that is open to families to promote a sense of belonging. We encourage parents to stay until they and their child are comfortable for them to leave or spend time at kinder with their child and share their kinder experiences.

We use the 'Hey Warrior' books and our Warrior mascot Sigmund by Karen Young and Kathy Walker as resources for children and families to help with anxieties about separation and new environment and providing parents with an outlook on what to expect in preschool learning and developments of their child. We use our Preschool Field Officers to assist in providing new resources and programs to implement in the kinder sessions to enhance each child's learning and experience at kinder. Staff also attend Professional Development sessions to gain new knowledge and skills to aid the child's needs.