



BUSH KINDER AT WHITFIELD. AN INTEGRATED KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM



Program Details

Whitfield's Kindergarten (kinder) Program operates on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 8.30am to 4.00pm.

The program is available to all kinder-aged children; we offer a mixed-age 3-and 4 year old integrated kinder program. Our generous educator ratios richly support each child.



What is Integrated Kindergarten?

In Australia, a child can only receive kinder funding for one kinder program. Integrated Kinder allows children to enrol either through kinder funding, or through long day care funding, accessing Child Care Subsidy (CCS). That is, if a child is enrolled in funded kinder elsewhere, they can still enrol at Whitfield's Integrated Kinder.

Kinder and childcare operate with the same curriculum. This means that the days are rich for all kinder-aged children, while providing flexibility for families by offering the option of attending either as a kinder, or long daycare, enrollment.



Where is the Program Based?

We move with the seasons, greedy for the best of all worlds!

In Terms 1 and 4, we start at Whitfield District Primary school on Mondays and Tuesdays. From there, we play in the creek, or linger amongst the trees or at the dam on the golf course. After lunch, we walk to our beautiful centre.

In Terms 2 and 3, we spend a full Monday at Myrree School. The Myrree bush lends itself to tree climbing, exploring through the bush, with imaginations creating worlds everywhere! Tuesdays are based at the Whitfield Centre.

With the bush setting the tone, creativity, collaboration, and natural resources often abound. Our kinder program at our service builds on this foundation.



Creating Connections

We use our meaningful connections within the community to the fullest!

We have a strong relationship with local schools, and often, the schools provide a base from which we explore.

Spending time within the school environment allows the children to develop multi age friendships enriching the lives of all.

The environment naturally fosters a sense of belonging whilst supporting a smooth and confident transition to school.



Why Bush Kinder?

Experts in children's learning say being in nature best supports a child's wellbeing. Through our experience, we could not agree more!

It is with strong wellbeing that we are best able to learn, grow and flourish.

At Bush Kinder, social and emotional development is supported while resilience is nurtured.

Children connect to learning in nature while feeling strong, calm and curious.

Being in the bush we see imagination blossom as natural objects become our toys. Creativity, a wonderful life skill, brings this world to life.

This learning environment fosters collaboration and communication skills as well as opportunities for children to enjoy taking considered risk.

By experiencing risk taking in a safe and supported environment, children have a platform of risk awareness that supports and protects them in later life.

It is in this space that independence and autonomy, vital to a child's growth, thrive.



Going slow... simple yet rich

We don't rush our days. Through going slow, we watch closely, we are curious, we discover. Ideas like camouflage, water tension, mammals, gain meaning. Our language, our love of learning, our love of stories, develops naturally. Literacy is embedded within our days.

We count, notice geometric shapes, sell 'produce' at 'shops', compare length and weight. Numeracy is everywhere!



Our approach is aligned with the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VELDYF), the National Quality Framework (NQF), and the Department of Education's Bush Kinder recommendations.

What is the Cost?

Before Childcare Subsidy (CCS), the full cost of each integrated kinder day is \$105. For all children accessing CCS, Centrelink will pay a percentage of that cost. CCS is income dependent meaning the percentage differs for each family. If enrolling as a kinder student, families will access CCS. Additionally, Centrelink pays up to \$500 per term per child. For some families, this will cover the entire cost of kinder. For others, there will be a fee to pay once that \$500 has been used up.

Contact Us

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