

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

The program is based on the children's interests, developmental needs and community culture.

Literacy: Providing opportunity to immerse children in books encourages a love of reading and supports literacy skills. This occurs with storytelling, dramatisation and encouraging book time during transitions/ activities and in our daily whole group and small group times.

Numeracy: Staff have engaged in the "Lets Count" maths program and implement their skills and knowledge on a daily basis when the opportunity arises. Eg how many children are here today, how many chairs do we need?

Community: Being in a small rural community there are also additional topics that we focus on to support rural families such as our farm safety program.

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

At Whorouly Preschool we commence with a predictable routine until children become comfortable in their environment. As the year goes on, we become increasingly flexible and are guided by factors such as the children (need for food, rest etc), the season, interests and special events such as excursions, our Bluearth Program. On a daily basis we provide time for indoor play, outdoor play and these are divided into supervised free play, directed and intentional teaching components.

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

These vary from year to year depending on the program and interests of the families and children. In the past we have had incursions from Museums Victoria, Declan the Music man, the Flying Bookworm theatre company, Life Education and Puppetry. Our excursions have included the Wangaratta Road Safety School, Beechworth Bakery and Maisie Enders Wildlife farm and family businesses such as the Whorouly Kiwi farm and sheep farms.

All incursions and excursions are carefully planned for within the program as a way to gain skills and knowledge and experiences for our children and their families.

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

To commence the year, we have individual interviews with parents so we can gain information and work together to support the needs of the child. Together we work out an action plan to guide us as we work towards the child having a positive experience in their preschool year. Staff are able to request additional support if needed from other professional services such as the Preschool Field Officers and attend Professional Development in areas that they need more knowledge.

Children with additional needs have access to further support specialists who work together for the benefit of the child and the family.