



WHEELERS HILL CHILD CARE CENTRE

3 & 4 Year-old Kindergarten Handbook



KINDERGARTEN IN LONG DAY CARE

Our 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten program is integrated within a long day care setting. This is very convenient for families whose other commitments require care for more hours each week. At our centre, children get to enjoy additional learning and experiences outside of the kindergarten program. For children who are already attending our centre, starting kindergarten within the service means they can benefit from established relationships with other children and educators. This is also a great option for families who have more than one child in care, as you will be able keep your kindergarten aged child and their siblings together.

At WHCC, the approved kindergarten programs are run by university qualified early childhood teachers. This means your children will benefit from the best in early education, including preparation for school and beyond, literacy and numeracy skills, social skills, and emotional development.

We implement a play-based emergent curriculum in our service, in which the program is planned and implemented according to the needs and interests of the children. This allows children to develop at their own pace while developing their curiosity, resilience, and creativity.

Free Kinder:

From 2023, if your child is enrolled to attend our three and four-year-old kindergarten programs, we will be claiming kindergarten funding for your child to support the costs of the kindergarten program.

As of 2023, the Government has introduced 5 and up to 15 hours per week of Free Kinder for three-year-olds. Wheelers Hill Child Care is able to offer 15 hours per week of both 3 and 4-year-old Kinder, per child, receiving the full \$2000, paid into the family account on a fortnightly basis **(during school terms only)**.

3-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN (KINDER 3)

Kinder 3 is run by Amelia, Master of Education qualified Early Childhood Teacher and runs all day from Monday to Friday.

Children must attend a 3-year-old funded kindergarten for at least 15 hours per week to qualify as funded. Therefore, children need to be enrolled for at least 2 days a week. The child needs to be turning three by April 30th of the 3-year-old kindergarten year. Families are welcome to decide which days they would like their child to attend Kinder 4 (pending availability).

The ratio of 1 educator to 11 children is the same for a kindergarten in a childcare setting as it is in a sessional kindergarten. Staffing arrangements are based on classroom size, number of children and any specific individual needs.

4-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN (KINDER 4)

Kinder 4 program is run by Shashni, Bachelor qualified Early Childhood Teacher, all day from Monday to Friday.

Children must attend a 4-year-old kindergarten at least 15 hours per week to qualify for funding the year before school. The child needs to be turning four by the April 30th of the 4-year-old kindergarten year. Families are welcome to decide which days they would like their child to attend Kinder 4 (pending availability).

Towards, the end of the year, Transition Learning and Development Statements are written for those children moving to school. The TLDS summarises your child's learning and development, identifies their approaches to learning and their interests and indicates how the child can be supported to continue learning. It promotes continuity of learning for children transitioning to primary school.

The ratio of 1 educator to 11 children is the same for a kindergarten in a childcare setting as it is in a sessional kindergarten. Staffing arrangements are based on classroom size, number of children and any specific individual needs.

WHAT IS A PLAY-BASED CURRICULUM?

Play is the work of the child through which they make sense of the world around them. Our play-based curriculum is focused on children's emerging interests, needs and developmental levels. Children learn best when the curriculum is relevant and meaningful to their lives.

Our program provides rich and meaningful learning opportunities for children to explore and discover the world around them at their own pace. Children's interests are reflected in the learning experiences, materials, and equipment throughout the service. Children learn vital skills through our play-based curriculum and are seen as active participants of their own learning. Children's voice is included in the program and planning, providing many opportunities to lead their learning. Children's learning and development is assessed through observational assessments, summative assessments, and consistent communication with families.

Early literacy and numeracy, STEM, creative experiences, dramatic play, fine and perceptive motor skills are integrated into our program. We also take advantage of spontaneous learning opportunities to extend children's interests and learning through rich and meaningful interactions.

We run an indoor and outdoor program throughout the day. Outdoor play promotes play-based learning while providing opportunities for gross motor play such as running, jumping, climbing, and balancing. Sustainability is embedded into the daily routine where children interact and care for plants and animals through our worm farm, composting, watering the plants and feeding the fish.

Transition to school is major part of your child's kinder journey. Transition statements are prepared by the Kinder Teacher at the end of the year. Transition statements provide a snapshot of your child and their learning and development throughout year. It contains valuable information such as what kind of learner your child is, their strengths and interests, and effective strategies. This will ensure that your child's primary school is prepared to support your child from the moment they arrive in their classroom. To

ensure a smooth and positive transition to school, we encourage your involvement in your child's learning throughout the year.

WHAT DO WE FOCUS ON AT WHEELERS HILL CHILD CARE CENTRE?

At our service, we provide children a safe and secure environment where they can explore and discover the world with confidence. Your child's brain develops and more faster during the first five years of their life than any other time in their life. Your child's early experiences are vital for their development and these experiences help shape who they will become. To support your child to get ready for school and for life, we focus on the following:

- Emotional Literacy
 - Self-regulation
 - Self-awareness
 - Motivation
 - Empathy
 - Confidence
 - Resilience
 - Self-esteem

- Social and communication skills
 - Sharing
 - Taking turns
 - Conflict resolution
 - Listening
 - Working alongside others
 - Teamwork
 - Understand social boundaries.
 - Cooperation
- Independence
 - Responsible for their belongings
 - Dressing and undressing themselves
 - Using the toilet
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