



MITTAGONG PRESCHOOL
Kindergarten Incorporated

October 2022 Edition

Mittagong Preschool Newsletter

President Report

October 2022

Welcome back to Term 4, I hope you had a great break and are ready for everything Term 4 has to offer!

There is always plenty of work going on behind the scenes to help make sure preschool continues to be the most amazing place for our little people.

There are always lots of ways for families to get involved - from hands on help, to participating in fundraisers, to offering your own unique skill set.

We are counting down the last few days to our Spring Fling Trivia Night, on this Saturday night 15 October, kicking off at 7pm. Our trivia night committee have pulled out all the stops to bring you an excellent night of trivia, games, and laughs. The preschool community and local community have generously donated an amazing range of prizes and auction items. Raffle tickets are still available, and we hope the night will raise enough funds to complete the Building Fund project of upgrading and refurbishing the sensory room. I look forward to seeing you there!

Best regards,

Katie McGuigan

president.mittagongpreschool@gmail.com

Allergen Alert

Lately we have noticed a few snacks coming into Preschool that contain hazelnuts.

It is not obvious, so please check the ingredients list.

We are a nut-free Preschool as we have several children across the Preschool with severe allergies & anaphylaxis to nuts.

Please note that nut traces are unavoidable but if an item lists nuts as an ingredient, then it must be excluded.



Building Fund

Our next major fundraiser for this fund is our Spring Trivia Night on 15th October. We are hoping to reach our target of \$5000 so that we can progress with our first project plans to upgrade the sensory room with new cabinetry and reverse-cycle air-conditioning.



We actually raised \$9000!

It was a great night ... a financial & social success!

Full wrap-up & thanks - next Newsletter!

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Diary Dates October

Fundamental Movement Skills Follow-up Program: 10th Oct. – 4th Nov.

Parent Association Zoom Meeting: Tues 11/10 @7pm

Bush Preschool Program: Rotation 1: 11/10 – 28/10

November

Preschool Photos: Tues. 1/11 & Thurs. 3/11

Parent Association Zoom Meeting: Tues 8/11 @ 7pm

Parent's Zoom Orientation Night: Thurs. 10/11 @ 7pm

Children's Orientation: 14th – 25th Nov. 9.30 – 10.30 am

Aunty Wendy's Mapping Program: 15/11 & 18/11

Aunty Wendy's Bush Medicine/Bush Preschool Excursion: 22/11 & 25/11

Bush Preschool Program: Rotation 2: 28/11 – 9/12

December

Family Presentation Night & Last Day Party Days – dates in Newsletter

Programming

On a programming note, we are busy at the moment working on the children's individual programs, following up programming directions & finalising the Fundamental Movements Skills sessions.

Greg continues with his Indigenous gardening project and we have a few surprises in store before the end of the year - stay tuned!

We have two more rotations of the Bush Preschool Program - one in middle to late October & one in late November/early December.

In Week 2 we will host two Bollykids shows with a presenter from Sydney, focusing on dance and some concepts from the Diwali festivities.

We have two weeks in mid-November where we host Auntie Wendy, one for a mapping workshop at Preschool and the other is a talk on Bush medicine in our bush Preschool space (also an excursion).

Along the way, we will also be supporting the transition to school process – discussing and supporting Orientation sessions, completing end-of-year reports and facilitating extended orientation sessions where required. We will be asking for parent/guardian input on the reports we are preparing for the schools. They will be prepared for comment by 5th December and we will be finalising them to get them to the schools by 9th December.

Thanks so much for your co-operation with completing forms and signing the individual and group permission slips for the different experiences. It has been great to explore such a diverse range of concepts via incursions, excursions and in-house program content!

Service Report

From Pauline's Desk

Summer Program

From the beginning of the term we will be starting our days in the outdoor learning space, coming inside for our head count and group learning experience at 9 am. As always, please ensure you support your child to apply sunscreen each morning and that he/she is wearing sunsmart clothing (no strappy dresses/tops or muscle shirts please). If you are arriving after 9 am, please go to the Office to sign your child in for the day.



Staff News

Elly Chase left us at the end of Term 3 due to family commitments. Fenella Duxfield has increased her days at the Preschool and has expanded her role to cover Elly's position.



Covid-Safe Provisions

With the relaxed restrictions on exclusion when Covid-positive, it is important to discuss Preschool rules/guidelines.

The Department has outlined the following requirements:



- Testing and isolation are no longer mandatory if you test positive or have been exposed to COVID-19 in NSW, but we strongly encourage those with COVID-19 symptoms to stay home until you are well and symptom-free. Services are encouraged to advise families to keep children at home if they are unwell and get their child tested.
- If a child appears unwell on drop off, ask the parent/carer to take them home.
- If a child appears unwell while attending your service, contact the child's family to collect them and, if your supervision and ration requirements allow, keep the child in isolation.
- If you test positive to COVID-19, it is recommended you register your positive test with Service NSW.
- Services should now notify the department only if there is an outbreak of COVID in the service (5 or more cases within a 7-day period) or if the service is to be closed due to the impacts of COVID.
- Services are reminded that if there is a positive case in your service, the service must ensure that a parent or an authorised emergency contact of each child being educated and cared for by the service is notified as soon as practicable. This is a requirement under the Education and Care Services National Regulations (Regulation 88(2)).
- NSW Health continues to recommend two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination and a booster shot to reduce the risk of transmission within the community.
- NSW Health continues to recommend the wearing of masks indoors when you cannot physically distance, and this will now be a decision for educators and visitors to determine (as individuals).

End-of-Year Events

We are planning some special end-of-year group-based events (including party days), please pencil the dates onto your calendar.

Family Presentation Nights at 5.30 pm:

Monday/Tuesday
Possum Group –
Monday 12th December



Monday-Wednesday
Koala Group –
Tuesday 13th December



Wednesday-Friday
Possum Group –
Wednesday 14th Dec.



Thursday/Friday
Koala Group –
Thursday 15th December

Last day Party Days:

Monday/Tuesday
Possum Group –
Tuesday 13th December



Monday-Wednesday
Koala Group –
Wednesday 14th December



Wednesday-Thursday
Possum Group &
Thursday/Friday
Koala Group
Friday 16th December



Photos around Preschool



Enrolments/Orientations

The Enrolment Process is nearing completion with the Preschool almost full for 2023. An Orientation Night is planned via Zoom Meeting on Thursday 10th November at 7 pm with our Orientation Weeks from 14th to 25th November. During these weeks we will be holding the Orientation sessions for the new families/children (9.30 - 10.30 am).

We're on the Web!
Visit us at:
www.mittagongpreschool.org.au



Like us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/MittagongPreschool/>

Preschool photos are scheduled with Danielle for Tuesday 1st November & Thursday 3rd November. More information will be sent via email soon. All ordering and payments are managed through Danielle online and there will be digital options, or the prints will be sent to your homes.



Quality Ratings Certificate Unpacking the Standards.

October Newsletter:

Quality Standard 5 – Relationships with children

The National Quality Standard is made up of seven quality areas

5 Relationships with children



The NSW Department of Education
Education and Care Quality Ratings

Mittagong Pre-school Kindergarten

goes beyond the requirements of the National Quality Standard in at least four of the seven quality areas.

The National Quality Standard is made up of seven quality areas

1 Educational program and practice				
2 Children's health and safety				
3 Physical environment				
4 Staffing arrangements				
5 Relationships with children				
6 Collaborative partnerships with families and communities				
7 Governance and Leadership				

This service was last assessed in October 2019 against the National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care and these ratings have been awarded in accordance with the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

Date of issue: 24 May 2021 ASR-00027489 SE-00008429

Standard 5.1 Relationships between educators and children
Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.

Standard 5.2 Relationships between children
Each child is supported to build and maintain sensitive and responsive relationships.

As an Exceeding service, what strategies does Mittagong Preschool use in Relationships with children?

5.1.1 Positive educator to child interactions

5.1.2 Dignity and rights of the child

5.2.1 Children are supported to collaborate, learn from & help each other

5.2.2 Each child is supported to regulate their own behaviour, respond appropriately to the behaviour of others and communicate effectively to resolve conflicts

Rostering of Teachers & Educators to ensure time for meaningful interaction

Behaviour Guidance Policy & Procedures

Rostering for higher educator: child ratio



Use of visuals on lanyards and social stories as behavioural prompts

Staff & Planning Meetings discussing planning for individual children

Strong commitment to inclusion of children with additional needs, supporting learning & emotional regulation

Encouraging social interaction and collaboration between peers through focused planning and groupings

Code of Conduct for Staff Members Policy

Ethical Conduct Procedures

All staff and volunteers at Mittagong Preschool agree to the following principles:

1. Able by the Early Childhood Code of Ethics (2016), actively supporting to areas of commitments and therefore reflecting them in their practice.
2. Unbiased and impartial at Mittagong Preschool policies, Mission & Vision Statements, Philosophy and principles, contributing to their realisation as needed.
3. Represent the Preschool in a positive way at all times, reflecting best practice.
4. Treat children, families, other staff, Committee members or visitors to the Preschool with courtesy, respect and consideration at all times.
5. Only discuss confidential information or Preschool related issues with appropriate people within the Preschool environment but not with any person outside the organisation, unless required to do so by law.
6. Wear clean, neat clothes, professionally appropriate to the type of work to be undertaken and not offensive to others at the Preschool.
7. Resolve any conflicts with other staff members, Committee members, families or visitors quickly, using the Preschool policies and procedures.
8. Act positively on complaints, reflecting on the relationship between the complainant and the complainants within the Code of Ethics, promptly resolving the issue.
9. No smoking, use of illegal drugs or consumption of alcohol immediately prior to or when on duty on the premises.
10. Use appropriate language at all times within interactions with the children, families, staff, visitors and Committee members.
11. It is not acceptable for any staff member to neglect the needs of a child or children, unless the child/ren or use any form of physical, verbal or emotional punishment.
12. The issue of suspension is a difficult one that is generally avoided but no staff member will remain in a role unless it is particularly required for the safety of the child or based on the child's needs as outlined in an individual behaviour plan.

Building Ethical Practice – the Practicalities:

1. Staff meetings – include ethics as an agenda item and discuss a section of the Code or debate an ethical issue relevant to the Preschool.
2. Availability – include the Code of Ethics in a Handbook for new and existing staff.
3. External communications – refer to the Code on the website.
4. Advocacy action – use the principles in the code to support advocacy of children, families and the early childhood profession.
5. Reflective resource – use the Code as a reflective resource to help articulate a position or justify decisions in professional discussions.
6. Procedures – display the Code poster in a prominent place at the Preschool and have copies of the brochure available to parents.
7. Induction – refer to the Code within the Preschool Handbook on enrolment. Include the Code's principles within position descriptions and recruitment processes.
8. Documentation – The Code should be a reference point within policy documents. Where practical, use links to principles within program plans and other documentation.
9. Newsletters – include a regular ethics item in the Preschool Newsletter, highlighting the implementation of an ethical principle within Preschool practice.
10. Website – include the Code of Ethics and the UN Rights of the Child on the website, so that families can use this as a reference.

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STAFF HANDBOOK

Professional Standards are outlined in a range of documents, handbooks & signed agreements

Advocacy for Children's Rights & child engagement/involvement in decision-making

Based on ECA Code of Ethics

Service Philosophy

Interaction with Children Policy