

Glen Iris Rd Uniting Church Kindergarten FAQs

Welcome! 2020 OPEN DAY would normally see us field many questions from visitors to our service. Unfortunately, this is not possible with the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Educators in our team have created a list of frequently asked questions usually asked by prospective parents looking to enrol.

We are also very happy for you to call us if you feel you have questions of a more specific nature regarding your child.

How do I enrol at your kinder?

We are part of the Boroondara Kindergartens central enrolment scheme. Follow the [link for information](#) on how to enrol and to submit your enrolment online.

What are the hours for each group and when do they attend and how much does it cost?

Possum group (3 year old kinder)



TEACHER:

Sonya Goodrick



CO-EDUCATOR:

Kelly Mrocki

Monday 9.15am – 2.15pm (5hrs/wk)

Fees: \$449 per term (2021). There are 4 terms.

Lizard Group (4/5 year old kinder)



TEACHER:

Kathy Morriss



CO-EDUCATOR:

Elesha Leech

Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am - 4.00pm 15hrs/wk)

Fees: \$613 per term (2021). There are 4 terms.

Koala Group (4/5 year old kinder)



TEACHER:

Larissa Wall



CO-EDUCATOR:

Nicole Carty

Wednesday & Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm (15hrs/wk)

Fees: \$613 per term (2021). There are 4 terms.

How many Educators per group and what are their qualifications?

Our teachers all have approved 3 or 4 year early Childhood Teacher qualifications and are registered with the Victorian Institute of teaching. Our co-educators have a Certificate III in Children's services. All staff have full first aid training, including asthma and anaphylaxis.

We have a ratio of 1 adult per 11 children. An additional staff member comes in for 2 hours on a Tues, Wed, Thurs and Fri to do lunch relief and assist with the relaxation/quiet time.

Which schools do most children attend from your kinder?

Approximately half the children from the two four year old groups go to our neighbouring school, Glen Iris Primary. We usually also have several children attend Camberwell South Primary, St Cecelia's Primary and St Michael's Primary schools.

What is your centre's philosophy?

Our philosophy and programs reflect the guiding principles of the National Quality Framework. This includes five outcomes for the children. They are as follows:

- Outcome 1. Children have a strong sense of identity
- Outcome 2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Outcome 3. Children have a strong sense of wellbeing.
- Outcome 4. Children are confident and involved learners.
- Outcome 5. Children are effective communicators.

Glen Iris Rd Uniting Church Kindergarten is an inclusive centre that appreciates and respects all groups and cultures and incorporates learning and activities for children to grow in their knowledge of diversity. We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land on which we learn and play on. We would also pay our respect to the Elders both past, present and emerging of the Kulin Nation.

We believe that every child is a wonderfully unique and special individual who comes to us with his or her own special experiences and view of the world. We believe that every child has a right to feel a sense of belonging and we aim to provide a service that is inclusive, equitable and respectful of the diversity of the children and families involved.

We believe the rights of the children are paramount. The Staff listen to the children, and their ideas and interests are incorporated into the planning of the Kindergarten program.

We believe that children are capable and competent, and they actively construct their own learning. Their learning is dynamic, complex and holistic.

At Glen Iris Road Uniting Church Kindergarten we use integrated teaching and learning approaches. This means there is a combination of guided play and learning, adult led learning and child directed learning. We support the development of positive attitudes and values in line with sustainable practices.

We see our kindergarten as part of the bigger community involving the local primary schools in particular our neighbouring school Glen Iris Primary and the Glen Iris Road Uniting Church as well as our Kindergarten Community.

We value the involvement of our families, we try to support them in their role as parents and allow the families to have input into the kindergarten program. Open communication between educators and families is facilitated through face-to-face contact, newsletters, e-mails, KidsXap and SeeSaw.

Our aim is to provide a caring, welcoming and stimulating learning environment, respecting the needs of the children, parents, families, staff and the broader community whilst being committed to the health and safety of all the children in our care.

Can you please explain your Curriculum?

We adhere to the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development framework. We have attached a [link to some information](#) that will help explain the framework to you.

How do you record the children's learning at kinder?

We have multiple means of observing and recording the learning that occurs at kinder. One way is we use an on-line platform called "Seesaw". Photos, videos and observations are uploaded daily by the Educators to individual families and the group. Parents can comment on the posts and actively see how their child is engaging with the program and what they are learning. We also use individual notes, ask the children to reflect on their own learning and use checklists for specific skills we are documenting.

Do the children have a rest time?

Opportunities are provided for the children to relax, this may be on individual mats whilst listening to relaxation music, hearing audio stories, looking at individual stories, practising some yoga or in a calming whole group experience on the mat practising meditation and yoga and listening to music. The lights are usually turned off to create a calming environment and the children are encouraged to be quiet, reflective and mindful for a period of usually around 15-30min.

The children are not expected to sleep.

What is the daily routine?

3 year old Possum Group (Sonya and Kelly)

We begin our session at 9.15am for a 5 hour program till 2.15pm. We usually start inside with different experiences set out that encourage learning and development of abilities and interests of 3 yo. For some it is the first out of home setting the child will attend and our focus to begin with will be forging bonds and trust with

Teachers and developing positive separation from parents and caregivers as 3 yo Kinder is a stepping stone to a more involved experience in 4-5 yo Kinder. We learn about following routines, beginnings of doing things for ourselves, and learning how to interact with others in a group setting. The children learn through play and making choices about what and whom to play with or alongside.

The structure of the program comes from the routines which generally stay the same for each session. Before morning tea at around 10.40am, we have a whole group time on the mat. After morning tea we go outside to play until we have our lunch time at around 12.45pm. Before home time we always have a story with everyone sitting together on the mat and having a short chat about the day.

There are opportunities for parents to volunteer for parent duty which can give you an insight into how your child is going at kinder.

4/5 year old Lizard Group (Kathy and Elesha)

We usually start our day at 8.30am with indoor activities. The children freely choose from table activities including sensory, creative play, puzzles, games craft or construction as well as painting, home corner, blocks and drawing.

At around 10.30am we all help to pack up before gathering together for a group mat experience. This may include some intentional teaching, singing, music, dance, drama or discussions.

We then have a social whole group snack time with children choosing which table they will sit at. After snack we go outside for outdoor activities. The children have opportunities for using their larger muscles by climbing, swinging, jumping and balancing. We have a sandpit and digging patch, outdoor blocks, areas for dramatic play and ball games.

At around 12.45 we go back inside for another group time before sitting together for lunch. We introduce individual placemats so we can mix up where the children sit and help extend and formulate different friendships and connections amongst all the children. This way the same children don't always sit together with the same group.

After lunch we have our 30min quiet/relaxation time from 1.30pm-2pm. The children use individual mats spread around the whole room and it is a good opportunity for them to relax after a busy morning, renew their energy and think about the afternoon ahead.

At 2pm the children pack up their mats and can choose to play indoors or outdoors. Different activities are placed on the tables indoors and sometimes projects that have been started earlier in the day can be worked on again in the afternoon.

At 3.10pm we all gather outside, choose packing up captains and work as teams to put away all the outdoor equipment.

We then help to pack up inside and have a story together on the mat. After story time the children can spend the last 15min (3.45pm-4.00pm) playing with construction toys, drawing, playing board games or puzzles and reading in the library as parents are able to pick up anytime from 3.45pm. Often parents will come in during this last 15min and spend a little time playing with their child at the end of the day or use this time to speak with the teacher.

4/5 year old Koala Group (Larissa and Nicole)

In the Koala group we work each year to develop a routine that suits the needs and capabilities of our current group of children.

In 2020 we have implemented an indoor/outdoor program that runs right throughout the 7.5hour session and encourages the children to move between both environments in order to explore the many learning experiences on offer.

During this indoor/outdoor free play, educators also work with small groups of children to implement planned, intentional, and sometimes spontaneous learning and inquiry that aligns with their current interests.

This year, in response to COVID-19, we have also introduced progressive mealtimes, where children are supported to recognise and act on their own hunger throughout the day, and are guided to retrieve their own belongings, wash their hands, and sit down to eat.

In the middle of the day we gather together for a group time, where we may practice mindfulness or yoga, dance and sing, read books, or have important discussions relating to learning within the program.

Towards the end of the day, all children and educators work together to pack up the room, and the children are assisted to pack all their belongings into their bags ready to go home!

Any further questions?

If you have any further questions or would like anything you have read to be explained further then please e-mail the kinder and one of our staff members would be pleased to answer your questions or we could give you a call.

We hope to be able to provide actual tours of the Kindergarten soon.

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