



Orelia
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Childhood Handbook 2022



nurture | discover | engage



ORELIA EARLY CHILDHOOD

Welcome to our Early Childhood Program. Please take some time to read these notes carefully and keep them handy for reference throughout the year.

The Kindergarten Program

The program focuses on the social development of your child in a play based environment. All developmental areas such as physical, cognitive, social/emotional and language development are catered for with all children seen as individuals. Each child is viewed as having their own unique learning styles and levels of development.

Play is a major component of the program with each child being actively involved in their learning. Through play children are able to make sense of their surrounding world and learn many important and vital skills and concepts.

Voluntary Contributions

\$40.00 per child. Please pay contributions as soon as possible to the front office as it provides the school with most of its funding throughout the year.

Session Times

Kindy days are:

“A” Group – Monday, Thursday & Alternate Wednesday (odd weeks)

“B” Group – Tuesday, Friday & Alternate Wednesday (even weeks)

Please refer to your enrolment letter for days and times your child attends.

Pre-Primary attend 5 days a week.

Arrival times

School commences at 8.30am and ends at 2.45pm. Children must be in the designated area in the morning before school and should remain there until 8.30am when a hand bell will be rung to go to class. ***Children are not allowed to be in the playground before school.***

Students may not arrive before 8.10am. Department policy prohibits students being at school before supervision is provided.

We appreciate your support with this matter.

School Calendar 2022

For all other dates including School Development Days and Public Holidays please refer to the fortnightly newsletters and term planners.

Term 1 Starts	Monday 31 st January 2022
Term 1 Ends	Friday 8 th April 2022
Term 2 Starts	Tuesday 26 th April 2022
Term 2 Ends	Friday 1 st July 2022
Term 3 Starts	Monday 18 th July 2022
Term 3 Ends	Friday 23 rd September 2022
Term 4 Starts	Monday 10 th October 2022
Term 4 Ends	Thursday 15 th December 2022

School Hours

School Commences	8.30am
Teaching Block	8.40 - 10.50am
Morning (recess) Break	10.50 - 11.10am
Teaching Block	11.10 - 1.10pm
Afternoon (Lunch) Break	1.10 - 1.45pm
Teaching Block	1.45 - 2.45pm
School ends	2.45pm

(Please ensure that children are collected from school promptly as delays often cause the students distress)

If your child is sick please keep them home, if necessary seek medical advice.

All children must be accompanied by an adult whilst waiting for the doors to be opened at 8.35 am and please pick up your child promptly at 2.45pm. Children must be collected by their parent/guardian (18 or over). If there are any changes to these circumstances, please let the staff know in advance, preferably in writing. If you are picking your child up early, please come to the office to fill in an electronic i-pad and then take an Early Release Card to the class teacher.

If an emergency or unexpected circumstance arises where you are going to be late, we can be contacted by phone on 6174 1200

What To Bring Each Day

Fruit Time

Each child will be required to bring a piece of fruit or vegetable to Kindy for shared fruit time. Other food ideas to bring along are crackers, cheese, sultanas, and dried fruit. This will be shared with all the children at "fruit time". Due to COVID we have not been sharing fruit. This may change in 2022.

Lunch

Children are always encouraged to eat their sandwich/rolls first, then their treats such as snack bars etc. Remember not to overfill your child's lunch box as they have only little tummies that do not need lots of extra sweet surprises. We are always encouraging healthy eating and a sandwich and something extra is plenty. All children will need to bring their own lunch every day.

Drinks

Please supply a water bottle with your child's name clearly marked on it. This bottle will stay at Kindy for children to use throughout the day when they feel thirsty.

School Bags

Children need to bring a bag to each session along with a hat and a spare change of clothes. Children's bags will need to be large enough to hold these belongings – remember they have lunchboxes to pack inside as well.

Hats

"No Hat, No Play".

Hats must be worn for outside play. Please provide a hat with their name clearly labelled which will stay at Kindergarten in their drawer for the year.

Shoes

Your child may choose to take their shoes off while they are playing in the sandpit. Please ensure that they have shoes that they can take off and put back on independently.

Illness/exclusion guidelines

Please leave sick children at home until they are fully recovered from their illness.

In the case of an accident or illness occurring at Kindy parents/guardians will be contacted. Parents should make sure that school contact numbers are kept up to date at all times.

Head Lice

Please make regular checks of your child's hair and inform us of an outbreak when it occurs.

Religion

If you have any beliefs that may affect your child's involvement in certain activities, please advise staff. ie: Easter, Christmas, Birthdays etc.

Excursions/Incursions

During the year we may organise an incursion to further a learning topic covered at Kindy. Prior to this you will be notified of the time, date and of any cost involved. You will also be required to sign a consent form giving permission for your child to be involved.

Cooking

Please let us know if your child suffers from any food allergies. We enjoy cooking regularly at Kindy, usually once a term at a cost of approximately \$3.00 per child (\$9.00 per year). Due to COVID we have not been cooking this year. This may change in 2022.

Student Behaviour

In guiding children's behaviour, positive reinforcement is always used. Plenty of patience and care is taken in redirecting inappropriate behaviour and helping children make good choices. Children will never be made to feel threatened or humiliated in the class. We use limits in the class to demonstrate the appropriate behaviour.

Children will be made aware of the limits used at Kindy for both indoor and outdoor activities. At all times the appropriate modelling of the acceptable behaviours will be used.

Child Development

At regular intervals throughout the year, anecdotal observations and assessments of your child will be made by staff to record progress or areas of development that may require a little extra attention. Observation allows staff to have an insight as to how your child is progressing with their skills and development.

If you would like to discuss any areas of your child's development or any aspects of the program, please do not hesitate to see the teacher before or after session times or alternatively make an appointment.

Rosters

In order to watch your child, interact with others and also to become involved in your child's stay at Kindy, we ask that you help out on roster at least once a term beginning Term 2. Parents can be involved as much as they wish by helping to cut fruit, spending time playing with your child, assisting with activities or helping to clean up. Whatever level of involvement, you are always welcome into the classroom. Younger children are welcome; however, we ask that parents watch them carefully so that they do not disrupt other children.

Most importantly we want you to enjoy yourselves, become more aware of what happens in your child's Kindy day and spend some special time with your child. If parents are unable to help on the roster at Kindy, we give smiley welcomes to aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends. Whoever comes on roster will make your child feel that little bit more special that someone has taken time out of their busy day to watch them grow, develop, play and learn.

The Early Childhood child will:

Further develop language skills and the ability to communicate effectively with others.

Learn social skills such as sharing, taking turns, participating in-group discussions/tasks.

Learn a higher degree of independence such as self-help skills, toileting, dressing/undressing, eating.

Learn to be more self-motivated and directed in their interactions, play and learning.

Contribute to a group task and participate in routines such as, storytelling, mat sessions and language games.

Further increase hand-eye coordination skills and small muscle movement through activities.

Further develop large muscle skills.

Respect and value property and other people.

Explore different play materials.

Be away from parents and interact with other children and adults in a social setting.

All these skills are of vital importance and no one is more important than the other

We hope that you are able to gain plenty of enjoyment from Kindy, as your child will throughout the year. In order to provide a quality program, we need to work together with you as parents to help provide a welcoming, nurturing and safe learning environment. Please help us do this for your child by informing us of any changes that may have occurred in your child's life that may affect their happiness and well-being at Kindy.

Birthdays

We are happy to celebrate birthdays in the class. It is optional to bring cupcakes. They will be given out at the end of the day due to possible allergies.

School Library

Every child needs a library bag as the Kindy runs a library loan system. If your child does not have a bag, then they cannot borrow.

Donations/Recyclable items

Please see the board for a list of donations (flour, salt etc. for play dough) and recyclable items (egg boxes, boxes) for creative art. Not toilet roll inserts please.

Everyday Activities for Promoting Oral Language Development

- ❖ **Simple art and craft activities** such as finger painting, drawing and playing with playdough – children learn the vocabulary for colour, shape, size and texture.
- ❖ **Toys that represent everyday activities** such as dress-ups, cooking sets, dolls and vehicles – children develop an understanding of their world and ability to pretend play whilst practicing real language
- ❖ **Cooking** – provides children with an opportunity to practise skills in following instructions and telling steps to a procedure whilst discovering the functions of cooking implements and a new vocabulary for appearance, taste, shape, size and colour.
- ❖ **Playing with toys** – children can develop their understanding of the function of objects and concepts such as location (e.g. up, behind), order (e.g. first, end, middle) and time (e.g. before, next, after). It also provides an opportunity to strengthen describing abilities and social skills such as taking turns, sharing and role-taking.
- ❖ **Singing nursery rhymes** – this fun activity supports pre-literacy development by increasing children's understandings of rhyme and rhythmic beats (syllables) in words.
- ❖ **Reading books together** – books provide a fun way to explore new words and concepts, as well as rhyme, sounds and letters (early literacy skills). When reading books together, talk about all of the things and actions you can see in the pictures, what sounds objects start with and point to the letters that make those sounds.
- ❖ **Asking your child to talk about his/her day at pre-school** – talking about past experiences in which you have participated is an early developing form of narrative and an important skill for holding conversations.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- <http://www.superduperinc.com/handouts.asp> - lots of parent handouts about speech and language
- <https://raisingchildren.net.au>
- <http://speech-language-therapy.com/whatshere.htm> - You can find lots of information about speech and language development and difficulties here
- http://www.makingfriends.com/f_Friends.htm - Provides fantastic paper dolls for dressing in numerous clothing themes (summer, winter, pirates, royalty)
- www.starfall.com – A fun, interactive website with books that move

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

- Ngala – Child and Parent Centre, Calista – 9367 0960
- Moorditj Koort - Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre – 6174 7000
- Dental Therapy Centre – Orelia Primary School – 9419 1468