

Camdenville Preschool





Our Educational Philosophy

At Camdenville Preschool we acknowledge the Gadigal people who are the traditional custodians of this land. We pay daily respect to our elder's past, present and future, by giving our own preschool Acknowledgement of Country.

Because we believe in the value of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, we have embedded perspectives into our daily program via the use of some select Gadigal language; access to the school yarning circle and planting and harvesting of bush-tucker; the learning of particular games and visits by local community members and elders. Additionally, the Aboriginal 8 Ways of Learning are practised in our service through Story Sharing, Learning Maps, Symbols & Images, Land Links and Community Links.

Because we believe in the value of play and that children learn best when immersed in meaningful play-based experiences, every day in our preschool you will see children engaged in unhurried, uninterrupted and sustained play experiences in an authentic, open-ended, happy and fun environment. We view the Environment as the Third Teacher, reflected in the beautiful and functional design of each space that is reflective of the child's learning.

Because we believe in the image of the child as capable, competent and resourceful learners who have a strong sense of agency, every day in our preschool you will see children co-constructing learning with educators and peers. We prioritise opportunities to explore, enquire, experiment, accept challenges, construct and solve problems, make choices, think independently, have a voice and listen to others.

Because we believe that families are the first and most important educators of their children and that children learn best when strong partnerships are formed between families and educators, every day in our preschool you will see open, regular communication about children and their learning highlights and areas of need. We highly value community engagement and actively encourage family input and involvement.



Our Educational Philosophy

Because we believe that children learn best when they have a deep connection with educators who foster curiosity, encourage children to enquire and take ownership of their learning, every day in our preschool you will see educators supporting and encouraging children to take learning risks and build resilience, by providing the children with invitations to show them how and why, through listening, thinking and questioning.

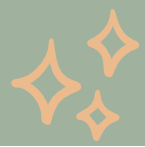
Because we believe that children learn best when actively participating as part of a community, every day in our preschool you will see educators supporting children from diverse cultures, varying family backgrounds and abilities, including additional needs, encouraging inclusion through acceptance, tolerance, empathy, kindness, compassion, understanding and resourcefulness. Friendships are supported, initiated, developed and sustained. Children are supported to celebrate their achievements, just as much as the achievements of others.

Because we believe that fostering a connection to nature inspires respect for the environment, every day in our preschool we ensure that we involve the children in a wide range of experiences around nature. This allows for the development of risk-taking skills, the improvement of confidence, health and well-being and instils a sense of wonder, generates curiosity and lights-up the imagination.

Because we believe we have a responsibility to support the learning of sustainable practices for our future, we embed these learning values into our daily program, through composting, reusing and recycling and in partnership with the community and school gardens.

Because we believe that transition to school should be a happy, positive experience, we implement a transition to school program that promotes a smooth and joyful progression to Kindergarten. We support the building of resilience and a sense of belonging and confidence every day throughout the year to enhance this process.





Our Program

Our program is developed based on the children’s interest and in consultation with families. The program will be shared fortnightly via Seesaw and displayed on the Home Room doors.

Our preschool program is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). The EYLF has a specific emphasis on play in early childhood education and care. With play as the foundation for our program, children are given the opportunity to explore, discover, and understand the world around them.





Daily Routine

The Preschool is open from 9.00am to 3.00pm Monday through Friday.

Families are welcome to wait with their child in the Family Room from 8.30am onwards until the bell rings at 9.00am. Please enter your child's Home Room and help them to unpack their lunch box and water bottle. No child can be left unattended before the school bell.

For families also picking up children from the primary school, we ask that you pick your preschooler up first at 2.50pm.

Our daily routine includes a balance of indoor and outdoor play, active and passive learning, individual and small group experiences and child initiated and educator initiated activities. We follow a flexible routine that is predictable for children.

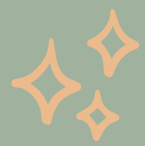


Home Rooms

To promote a sense of belonging for children and families, our Preschool has two Home Rooms (classrooms) of 20 children per day - the Barrugin (Echidna) and Wali Wali (Possum) rooms. Each Home Room has a Teacher and a School Learning Support Officer (SLSO).

Children spend meal times and the morning and afternoon drop off and pick up sessions with their Home Room. From 10.30am-1.00pm children flow between the rooms and indoors and outdoors.

Your child will be placed in their Home Room on their first day of Preschool. If needed, we can switch children's Home Rooms to ensure that all children's best interests are met.



What to bring everyday

- ✓ A broad rimmed hat
- ✓ A change of clothing to be kept in your child's bag in case of accidents or wet clothing from water and messy play. Please include underwear and socks
- ✓ Lunch box with ice brick
 - Healthy low package lunch
 - Healthy low package morning tea
- ✓ A bag, large enough to carry all the above.



Sign in and out

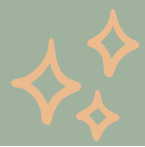
Please ensure that your child is signed in and out, as well as stating the time of arrival and departure. This assists educators with supervision and in the case of an emergency.

Collection of children

Please make sure that you document names and contact details of people who you authorise to collect your child on the enrolment form. If you wish to add additional people, we can provide a 'Collection of Children from Preschool' form.

Preschool educators will not allow a person to collect a child who has not been authorised by the family. If a person unknown to staff arrives to collect a child and authorisation has not been received, staff will not allow the child to leave until authorisation has been obtained. Once authorised - via phone or Seesaw - the person will be required to show photo identification.

Please let your child's teacher know if there have been any changes to pick-up authorisations.



What to wear

Children learn through play and are active participants in the preschool program. Messy, wet, and active play is encouraged. We suggest that clothing should be:

- ✓ Easily put on and off
- ✓ Shoes that are easily and independently put on and off. Velcro shoes are a great option.
- ✓ Sun safe - covering the shoulder
- ✓ Appropriate for climbing, running, and getting involved.

Aprons are an option for children, however, children will get paint on them - please keep really "good" clothes for home.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a wonderful time to share in each other's joy and celebrate peers. If you wish, you are welcome to bring in small cupcakes (nut free) or ice blocks to share with the children.

Sun Protection

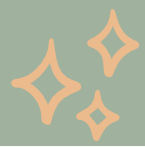
We ask that you apply sunscreen to your child upon arrival in the warmer months. Sunscreen is provided at the sign in table. We help children reapply sunscreen throughout the day. Children must wear hats when playing outdoors with the UV is higher than 3.

Food



Meal times are a social and enjoyable time and aid in the promotion of self help skills. We ask that the children bring nutritious low package food. Please practise opening your child's lunchbox with them at home. No lollies, nuts or chocolates are to be brought in lunchboxes. Please provide a water bottle (no juice or cordial) for your child to access during the day.

In the case that a child at risk of anaphylaxis enrolls at our preschool, you will be notified of their trigger foods through a notice at our entrance.



Communication with families

The Preschool will communicate with families in a variety of ways;

- ✔ Daily verbal communication - educators will be there at drop off and pick up to communicate directly with families.
- ✔ Seesaw is an online platform and used to share photographs of learning and play, observations, notifications, and direct messages. Seesaw is the best way to contact your child's teacher directly. You will be provided a QR to join.
- ✔ School Newsletters are emailed fortnightly by the School Principal and include a Preschool Update.



Behaviour Support

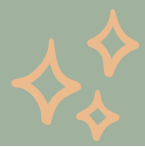
Our Preschool policy regarding behaviour encourages children to interact positively with others. The Preschool educators support children to identify their feelings and regulate their behaviour with reference to the Zones of Regulation.

Preschool educators use positive techniques of guidance, redirection, positive reinforcement and consistency. We value working with families and external to therapists where needed to make children's experience of Preschool as positive as possible.

No toys

We ask that the children do not bring any toys to preschool as toys can get lost or broken.





Licence and Rating

Our preschool is licensed to care for a maximum of 40 children, between 9.00am and 3.00pm daily, with a ratio of one adult for each 10 children.

- Approved Provider: NSW Department of Education PR-00005345
- Service approval number: SE- 00006823
- Service assessment and rating: Rated as **Exceeding** across all seven quality areas in 2023

Our preschool is guided by the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*. QR codes to the relevant copy of laws, regulations and our local procedures are available for you to access at the preschool. Please ask a staff member for assistance, if required.

Management of our service

Our service is operated by the *NSW Department of Education*.
Our Principal assumes the roles of; Nominated Supervisor
Educational Leader
Responsible person in charge

If our principal is off-site, the nominated executive staff member replacing them automatically assumes these roles.

Hearing your Concerns

It is best to talk with your child's teacher first if you have a concern.
You can also make an appointment with the School Principal.



Attendance

If your child will be away, please notify your child's teacher via *Seesaw* or by calling the school office. If your child is unwell, please keep them home. We ask that you keep your child stays at home if they have had a fever, diarrhoea or vomiting in the previous 24 hours.

Immunisation

All children enrolling in NSW Department of Education schools and preschools must show proof of immunisation with an *AIR Immunisation History Statement* or *AIR Immunisation History Statement Form*.

According to the *Public Health Act 2010*, children who are unimmunised due to "conscientious objection" are not able to enrol in our preschool.

If your child turns 4 after enrolling, the office will send you an email reminding you to provide their updated immunisation details as soon as practical.

Term Breaks

Our preschool is closed in the *NSW Department of Education* term holidays.

TASK Before and After School Care

Out of school hours care is provided for preschoolers (once they turn 4 years old) in Camdenville Public School from 7:00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. in the morning and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Holiday care is also provided.

TASK email:

camdenville@task-kids.com.au



Accident Policy

We do our best to prevent accidents and injuries occurring at preschool, however, occasionally these incidents do happen. First Aid and comfort will be provided.

Details of all accidents are recorded in the accident folder and parents will be asked to sign the form upon collection of their child. In the event of a serious accident or an injury above the neck, the parent or carer will be contacted by phone.

Incursions and Excursions

From time to time during the year, the teachers will organise activities of educational interest such as a visit from the fire station for the children. Written permission from parents will be necessary before a child may participate in an activity which is out of school grounds.

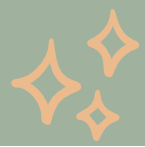
The preschoolers will often visit the grounds at the primary school to attend assemblies and play on the equipment.

Family Involvement

We have an open door approach. Parents are the first and most important teachers of a young child. Parents and teachers in the preschool need to work together to provide the best possible experience for the child. Parents are invited and encouraged to participate in our program whenever they have time. All caregivers or grandparents are most welcome too!

Parents can help by:

- Keeping up to date by reading the notice board and newsletters.
- Attending Working Bees.
- Supporting and attending the school Parents and Community meetings.
- Collecting and bringing in recycled and 'loose parts' - cardboard rolls (no toilet rolls), scrap materials, paper, lids, jars, etc.
- Offering to share any hobbies, interests or skills you may have. For example, playing an instrument, craft, cooking or sport.



SCHOOL STAFF

PRINCIPAL:

Ms Hollie van Ravenstein

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL:

Mr Callum Shepherd

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS:

Ms Thea Brash

Mr Patrick Costello

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS:

Ms Jordann Winch

Ms Katie Cudden



SCHOOL LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICERS:

Ms Christina Lever

Ms Marie Webb



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Website:

www.camdenvill-p.schools.nsw.edu.au