

# Welcome to Eastmont Pre-school

## **NO JAB, NO PLAY**

To commence kindergarten parents/carers must provide the service with a current Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR); AND the statement must show that the child is up to date with all vaccinations that are due for their age, or that they are able to receive.

An *Immunisation History Statement* from the AIR is the only type of immunisation record accepted by early childhood and care services and must be provided within the two months prior to the child starting at the service.

**Please provide Eastmont Preschool with a copy of your child's Immunisation History Statement (dated between 5th of December 2023 and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024) at your enrolment interview. Your child will not be able to commence kindergarten sessions until this statement is provided.**

The Medicare logo and Australian Government crest must be present and identifiable to be considered a valid Immunisation History Statement. For example, if the statement is page two of a letter from Medicare, both pages need to be presented.

**Regular kindergarten hours will commence from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

## **2024 Term Dates**

<b>Start date</b>	<b>Finish date</b>
Term 1 5 <sup>th</sup> February	28 March
Term 2 15 April	28 June
Term 3 15 July	20 September
Term 4 7 October	17 December

## Victorian Public Holidays During Term Time

Labour Day	Monday 11 March
Good Friday	Friday 29 March
ANZAC Day	Thursday 25 April
King's Birthday	Monday 10 June
Melbourne Cup	Tuesday 5 November
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ANZAC Day	Thursday 25 April
King's Birthday	Monday 10 June
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**Eastmont Preschool will also be closed on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.**

## What Your Child Needs to Bring to Kinder

- A bag that they can easily manage (large enough to hold their belongings and work from kinder)
- A named, broad-brimmed or legionnaires-style hat to be kept at kinder.
- A complete change of clothing (in case they get wet).
- A coat during cold weather.
- A container with lunch and a substantial snack (grapes can be a choking hazard and should be cut in half)
- A drink bottle (water only please)

## Dropping Off and Picking Up Your Child

For safety reasons, we ask that you **do not park in the driveway** at the front of the kindergarten. Please ensure that the front gate is closed each time after passing through it and **do not allow any unsupervised children to exit.**

On arrival and at the end of each session please sign in the attendance book, noting the actual times of arrival and departure. Please let us know if someone else is picking up your child. We must have your written authorisation naming anyone else who may pick your child up. This information is contained on the enrolment form and may be updated during the year.

## **First Weeks**

Starting kinder is an exciting time for children but it can also be unsettling especially if your child has not been away from family members before. Children usually settle in happily within a short time. It may be helpful to stay with your child until they settle into an activity before saying goodbye and telling him/her that you will be back to pick them up at the end of the session. Please do not just slip away without saying goodbye as this can lead to children becoming very upset and even less willing to separate next time.

During the first few weeks of kinder, children can become very tired, please feel free to give your child a rest at home if they are finding kinder too demanding initially. Alternatively, you may like to pick your child up early if you think they may benefit from a shorter session.

## **Children's Birthdays**

If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday at kinder, we request that you supply packaged treats, such as chocolate frogs, or commercially prepared baked goods that list the ingredients.

***We do not accept any homemade food for children's birthday celebrations.***

Thank you for your cooperation. Please speak to staff if you have any queries.

*Please arrange for party invitations to be distributed discreetly to avoid offending those children who are not invited.*

## **Evacuation Procedure**

In the event of an emergency evacuation, staff and children will assemble at the Primary Onsite Assembly Point at the main gate. If it is unsafe to remain onsite, we will proceed to the Primary Offsite Assembly Point at the oval at St. James Primary School in Centre Road Vermont which is located behind Eastmont Preschool.

## **Sun Protection**

Eastmont Pre School is a Sunsmart centre. From mid-August to the end of April (when Victoria's UV levels are typically above three), we ask that parents apply sunscreen to their children before the session. Broad-brimmed or Legionnaires-style hats must be worn during this period, spare hats are available in the foyer. Children's shoulders and backs must always be covered i.e. no sleeveless dresses or singlets etc.

## **Notices**

Please check your individual pockets (on the wall in the foyer) each day for notices. Each month a newsletter is distributed with programme information and other happenings at kinder.

## **Clothing**

The children will be wearing smocks for messy activities, however clothing can become stained. Please ensure that old clothes are worn to kinder so that children can play without worrying about getting dirty. Clothing and shoes, which enable children to play safely and go to the toilet independently, are most suitable.

Thongs, crocs, rubber boots and long skirts can be difficult and dangerous, especially when climbing. Please name all your child's belongings including jumpers, hats, shoes, lunch boxes and drink bottles. Our lost property box is in the foyer. Refer also to Sun Protection above.

## **Toys**

Please keep your child's toys at home as they are easily lost. You will be notified when we are having special Show & Tell weeks during the year.

## **Photos**

During the year a photographer will visit the kinder and take individual and group photos. It is not compulsory to purchase any photos.

## **Family Involvement**

We do not have a formal parent help roster, but parents and grandparents are always welcome to drop in at any time to lend a hand with activities or to just to spend some time with their child.

We love to have families share any special talents, skills or interests with us, so if you would like to help us with cooking, play a musical instrument or talk to the children about your profession don't feel shy about offering. It's fun and the children really enjoy your involvement.

*You must have a Working With Children Card to volunteer. It's free for volunteers and you can apply here-*

<https://www.service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children/>

## Laundry

There is a small amount of washing to do each week. If you would like to assist, please add your name to the washing roster that is put out before the end of each term.

## Health

If your child is not well, please keep them at home. A sick child is miserable and does not benefit from being at kinder. Please view the exclusion table via this link:

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion-table>.

Please notify us if your child contracts an infectious disease or condition (such as head lice) so that other parents can be alerted.

***Please note there have been recent changes regarding Gastroenteritis. Children must not return to kinder until at least 48 hours after the vomiting and/or diarrhoea has stopped.***

## Our Philosophy and Purpose

At Eastmont Pre-School we offer a play-based, child centred-curriculum that is guided by the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework and the Early Years Learning Framework. We create a warm, caring, inclusive environment where children of all abilities feel relaxed, supported, and are able to explore, discover, imagine, create, have fun, and reach their full potential. Children are active participants, contributors and decision makers in their own learning and families and educators work together in partnership to support children's agency and learning. At Eastmont we encourage the children to be lifelong learners as we exude a teachable attitude towards our community, children, and families. We aim to keep listening, hearing, and responding as we continually grow and learn together.

### **At Eastmont Pre-School, We listen! We hear!**

We prioritise Child Safety, wellness and wellbeing and provide opportunities that encourage and develop self-esteem, a positive self-image, communication, and independence skills. We listen to the voices of children and adults and keep children safe at all times.

We hear our community, as we respect the Traditional Custodians of the land and pay our respects to Elders past and present and welcome them to our service. We strive to provide a culturally safe environment and seek to continually connect and grow with our understanding of our First Nations Peoples.

We hear our children, and help them to choose good foods, keep moving their bodies, and stay active!

We hear our children and are guided by them, as we encourage and support them to make friends and be kind, develop empathy and compassion towards others and speak up and let their voices be heard and remember to laugh and have fun.

We hear our team, as we collaborate together, share skills, and respect each other's talents and uniqueness. We promote respect and care for other children, and adults.

We respect individual differences and foster an environment in which each child, family and educator is supported and valued for the unique strengths and interests that they bring to the group.

We care for the environment and show an appreciation of nature. We show consideration and respect for all living creatures.

We value diversity and embrace our community and opportunities to contribute to it by authentically embracing a holistic attitude towards the enriching cultures our service is immersed in.

We listen to our families and respect them as the most important people in their child's life, and work in collaborative partnerships with them to ensure the best learning and development outcomes for their child.

## **Programme Information**

Our curriculum is based on the National and Victorian Early Years Learning Frameworks (EYLF and VEYLDF). The kinder programme is planned for both individual children and for the group as a whole. Each session the children are free to choose from a range of play-based activities both indoors and outdoors. Learning experiences are based as much as possible on the interests of the children. We come together as a group during the session to sing, dance, play games listen to stories etc. Otherwise, most learning experiences are planned for small groups.

We aim to help your child develop a positive attitude towards themselves, other children and educators. One of the main goals of the programme is to assist your child to develop self-esteem. A positive self-concept is important for all areas of your child's development. The programme also focuses on helping children identify and cope with their feelings and to develop ways of dealing with conflict situations with other children.

The fortnightly programme is displayed next to the sign in book and outlines objectives and the learning experiences that your child will be participating in each week.

## **Parent/Teacher Interviews**

In July we conduct parent/teacher interviews. This gives us an opportunity to discuss your child's progress. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss any aspect of your child's progress at any stage, please feel free to make a time for a discussion.

Please keep this information for reference during the year.

We aim to make your child's year at kinder a memorable and happy one. We look forward to getting to know you and your child.

**Sonya Skok, Sue Eddy, Morgan Salomons, Flora Zhou & Gina Ma**