



**EASTMONT
PRE-SCHOOL**

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Family Information Booklet

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Welcome to Eastmont Pre-school

Eastmont Preschool Philosophy

At Eastmont Preschool 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 aim to create a warm, caring, inclusive environment where children of all abilities feel relaxed, supported and happy and are able to explore, discover, imagine, create 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 learning.

- We promote respect and care for other children, adults and *all* living creatures as well as an appreciation of nature and respect for the environment.
- We respect individual differences and foster an environment in which each child and educator is supported and valued for the unique strengths and interests that they bring to the group.
- We provide opportunities that encourage and develop self-esteem, a positive self-image, communication and independence skills.
- We recognise that families are a child's first and most important educators and seek to work in collaborative partnerships with them to ensure the best outcome for all children. We welcome and encourage family involvement in all aspects of our service.
- We value cultural diversity in our Eastmont community.
- We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are located. We would also like to pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.
- We recognise that Eastmont Preschool is part of our local community and value opportunities to contribute to that community.

We continually strive to improve the quality of our service.

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 4th of December 2021 and 2nd February 2022 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.

Under 'No Jab, No Play' what documentation is required as evidence of up-to-date vaccination?

To have an enrolment confirmed for a child in long day care, kindergarten, family day care or occasional care, parents/carers have to 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.

The Immunisation History Statement from the AIR lists the vaccines the child has received and, if applicable, which vaccines are due in the future and when. Medical exemption may also be listed, where applicable.

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

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 to the service to confirm enrolment.

COVID-19

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, children with even the mildest of any of the symptoms listed below must be kept at home until they are well

- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- headache
- muscle soreness
- runny nose, stuffy nose
- loss or change in sense of smell or taste.

Directions from the Department of Education and Training may impact information contained in this booklet.

2022 Term Dates

	Start date	Finish date
Term 1	28th January (Enrolment interviews start 1 st Feb.)	8 April
Term 2	26 April	24 June
Term 3	11 July	16 September
Term 4	3 October	20 December

Victorian Public Holidays During Term Time

Labour Day	Mon, 14 Mar
Queen's Birthday	Mon, 13 Jun
Melbourne Cup	Tue, 1 Nov (Eastmont Preschool will also be closed on Monday 31st Oct.)

Rest Time

Children will be encouraged to have a rest time after lunch. We supply each child with their own small folding mattress and a fitted sheet to cover it. We ask that you provide a cushion or **small** pillow, a light sheet or blanket and a cuddly toy. Bedding will be sent home at the end of each term for you to launder.

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 broad-brimmed or legionnaires style hat, must be brought every day from mid-August to the end of April (when Victoria's UV levels are typically above three).
- 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 card 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.

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.

Birthday Parties

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

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 of 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.

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 see exclusion table attached. 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.

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, Kate Bartlett, Sue Eddy, Moira Doolan & Michelle Davies