

Bairnsdale Childcare & Kinder 4-year-old Kindergarten Handbook.

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Introduction

Bairnsdale Childcare and Kinder welcome you and your child to our centre. We have compiled this handbook to give you key information about our **government funded** 4-year-old kindergarten program, to help you understand its aims, and suggest how you as parents can help your child maximise their 4-year-old kindergarten experience.

Our Kindergarten programs have the Kinder Tick

This means that our Kindergarten programs are:

- Led by a qualified teacher.
- Offer play-based learning.
- Funded by the Victorian government (15 hours per week)
- Complies with government guidelines and the National Quality Framework.

For information regarding fees please speak to management.



The 4-year-old program

The children's educational program is developed by our Bachelor trained educators. Our program reflects Bairnsdale's unique philosophy, commitment to the environment, local community and is guided by both the National Framework (Belonging, Being and Becoming) and the Victorian Framework (Early Years Learning and Development Framework). Educators develop the program based on their observations of the children, children's interests, strengths, and abilities within the context of their local community and cultural heritage. The program, which will be displayed in the kindergarten, reflects sound research that children learn best through play and by engaging in experiences that interest them. The program is planned around the five Learning Outcomes identified in the frameworks.

The learning outcomes relate to:

1. Children have a strong sense of identity (Identity)
2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world (Community)
3. Children have a strong sense of wellbeing (Wellbeing)
4. Children are confident and involved learners (Learning)
5. Children are effective communicators (Communication)

Specifically, the program provides opportunities for the children to learn to:

- be hands on in their learning.
- feel confident, respected and valued members of their community.
- be independent and confident in their self regulations.
- be encouraged to represent their ideas and understandings through various modes of expression e.g. speaking, writing, drawing, painting, building, sculpting, dance, collage, dramatic play and music.
- explore mathematical, numeracy and literacy concepts.
- observe, question and organise their thinking about the world.
- be supported in undertaking new experiences and challenges.
- develop creative thoughts.
- extend their interests.
- communicate with others.
- be interested in cultures and community.
- be confident in school readiness.



Additional Programs

Social Skills Program:

The Social skills program is a collection of practices that use a behavioural approach assisting preschool children age-appropriate social skills and competencies, including communication, problem solving, decision making, self-management and peer relations. The social skills program is integrated into the daily curriculum.

Active Play Program:

This program teaches the children specific skills through games to build confidence and self-esteem, whilst providing physical wellbeing and encourage a lifelong love for sports and exercise. Specific skills and sports activities will be delivered in a safe non-competitive environment throughout the year. Children will also develop abilities in listening, following directions, turn taking, hand eye co-ordination, focus and concentration.

Cooking & Sustainability Programs:

The children will be involved in cooking, caring for vegetable gardens, caring for our bush tucker gardens, worm farms, composting and recycling practices daily as part of our ongoing commitment to a sustainable future.

Sophie/Woody/SeeMore safety Program:

These are our special teddy (toy) friends that the Kinder children can take home for the weekend. The children get to spend some time with the teddies, take photos and write up something about their adventure. When they come back to class, they can share this with the other children.

Library Program:

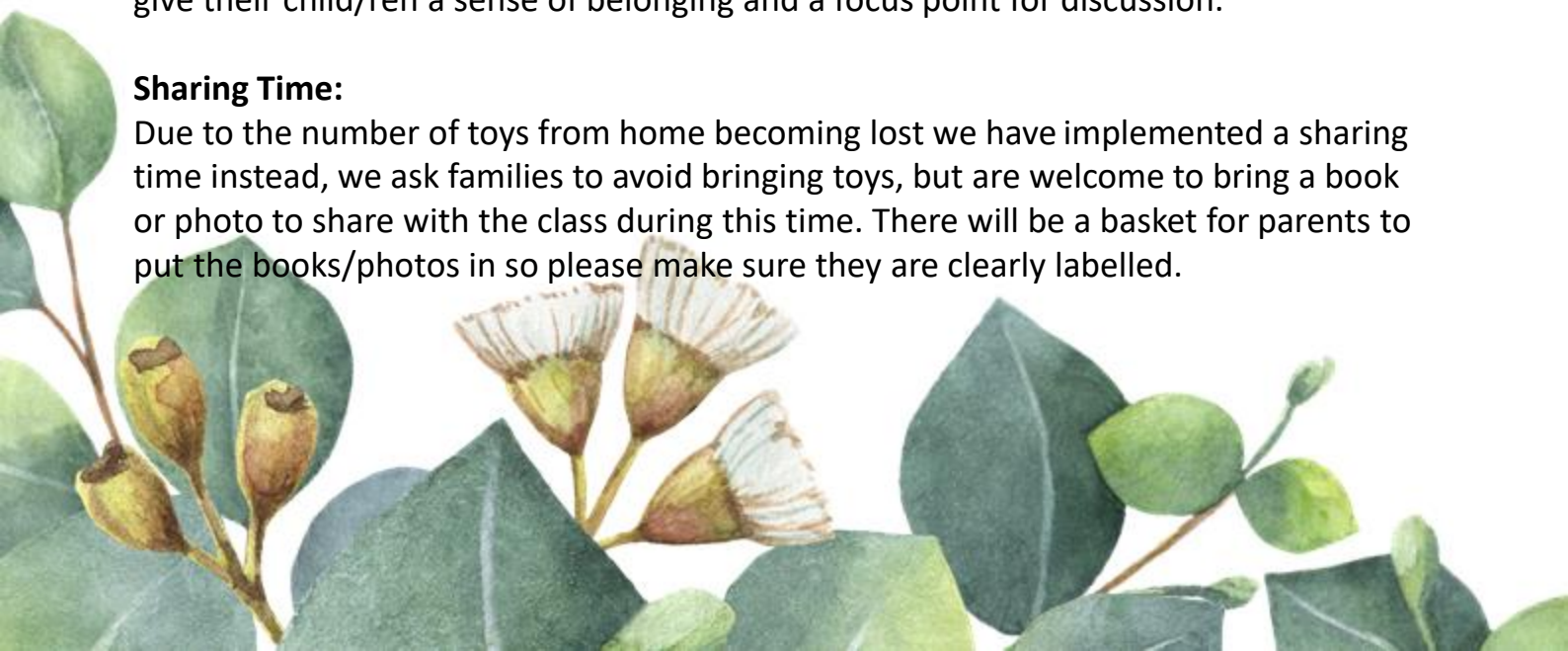
The children will create a library bag at the beginning of the year and will be able to borrow a book from the centre, to take home to share with families each week.

Family Photos:

We ask all families to provide us with a family photo that we can display in the room to give their child/ren a sense of belonging and a focus point for discussion.

Sharing Time:

Due to the number of toys from home becoming lost we have implemented a sharing time instead, we ask families to avoid bringing toys, but are welcome to bring a book or photo to share with the class during this time. There will be a basket for parents to put the books/photos in so please make sure they are clearly labelled.



Daily Routine

The daily routine is made up of structured times where the children will have the opportunity to explore curated learning spaces and engage in curriculum planned experiences throughout the morning and afternoon sessions. Our program starts between 8:30 -9:00 am, it would be beneficial if your child could be dropped off no later than 8:45am.

Before Kinder Session

6:45am: Family grouping in Junior Kinder

8am: Children move into 4-year-old Kindergarten room

8:15am: Indoor/Outdoor program

Morning Session Start

9:15am: Grouptime

9:30-10:00am: Morning tea

10:00-11:30am: Indoor program

11:30-12:30am: Outdoor program

Afternoon Session

12:30pm: Grouptime

12:45pm: Lunchtime

1:30pm: Quiet/Circle time

1:45pm: Indoor/Outdoor program

2:30pm: Grouptime

2:45pm: Afternoon tea

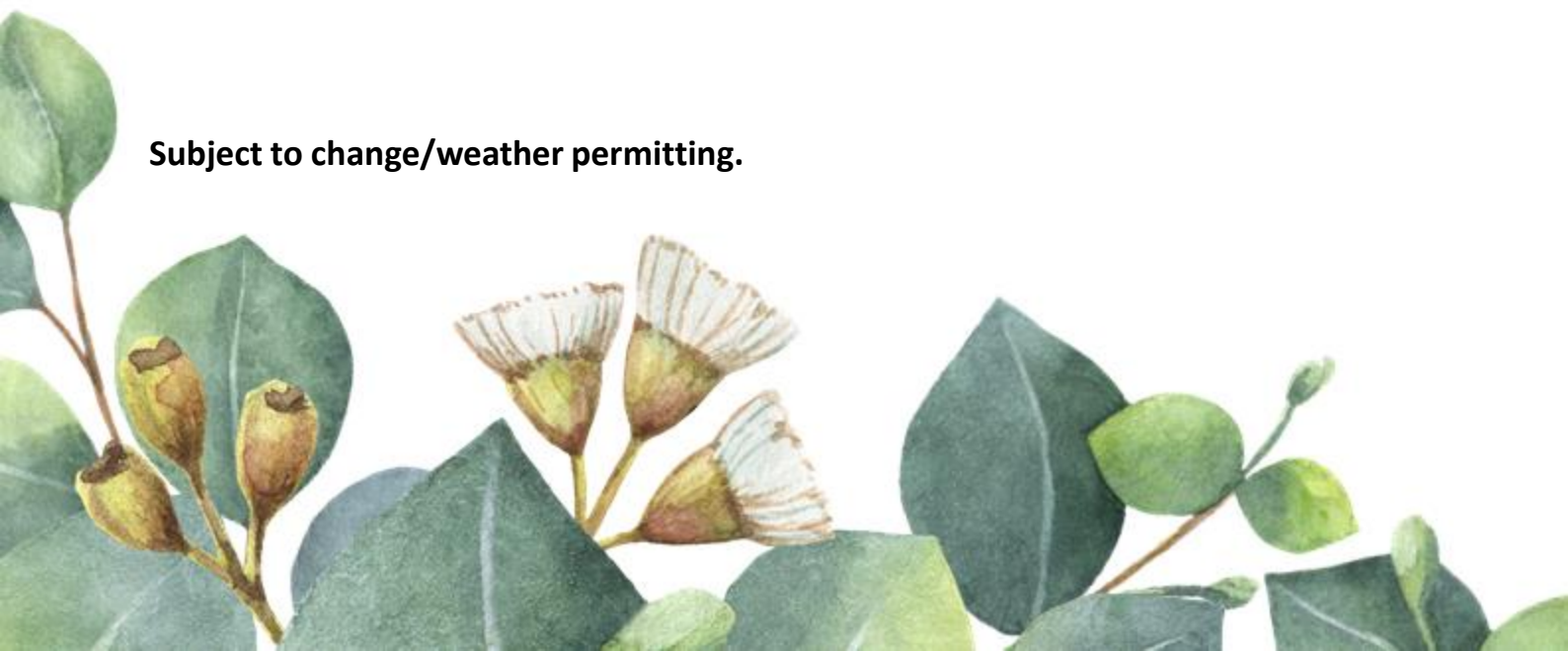
3:15pm: Packing bag

After Kinder Session

3:30pm: Indoor/Outdoor program

5:15pm: Family grouping in Junior Kinder.

Subject to change/weather permitting.



What to bring?

Clothing/Backpack:

- Large backpack
- Lunchbox
- Drink Bottle
- Full change of spare clothes e.g. pants, t-shirt, jumper, underwear.
- Broadbrimmed Hat (Summer months)
- Beanie, jacket, gumboots (Winter months)

All items need to be clearly labelled with your child's name.

It is important that your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear for indoor and outdoor play. We believe that there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing, so even in winter your child will be playing outside. Therefore, weather appropriate clothing is essential (jacket, gumboots woollen hat etc)

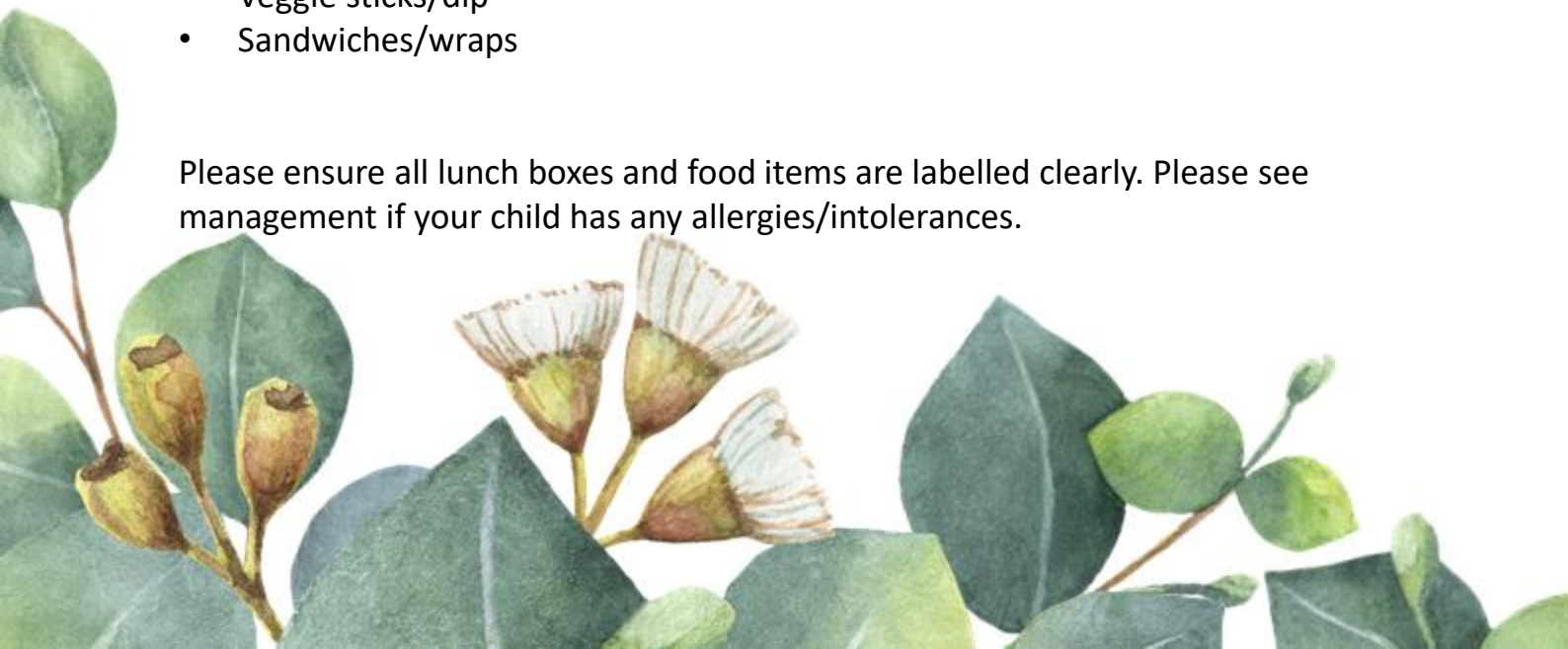
Please ensure your child does not wear 'good' clothes to Kinder as they will get dirty/wet.

A packed lunch:

Our nutrition policy encourages all children to have a well-balanced lunch box. The Kindergarten room is provided with morning and afternoon tea which usually consists of fresh fruit platters, cheese and crackers, rice cakes or veggie sticks and dip. However, you will need to provide lunch for your child as well as additional snacks. We ask in preparation for school readiness children do not come with any food that requires heating. Please see the following for some ideas:

- Yoghurt
- Fruit
- Crackers
- Healthy muffins
- Veggie sticks/dip
- Sandwiches/wraps

Please ensure all lunch boxes and food items are labelled clearly. Please see management if your child has any allergies/intolerances.



Family Involvement

We encourage all family members to give input into the program and keep educators up to date with their child's interests at home, this can be done via email, phone, day books and face to face conversations with educators. We also encourage families to bring in photos from family events or weekend activities. Throughout the year you will receive newsletters that are e-mailed or placed in your child's bag about program updates and upcoming events. Please take the time to read these so your child does not miss out. At the end of each term, we will make time available for parents to speak to the child's educator, so they are up to date with their child's learning.

Summative Assessment/School Transition statement

Educators will complete a mid-year summative assessment and a school transition statement outlining your child's progress.

Learning Journals:

Our learning journals are a collection of your child's artwork, photos, learning stories and other information that provides a detailed record of your child's progress and development. Each child's learning journal is unique, as each child's level of development and interests are different. These learning journals allow the children to feel a sense of pride and ownership of their work. Only you, your child and educators have access to your child's journal. Once finishing with Bairnsdale Childcare and Kinder your child will receive their journal as a keep sake.

We look forward to being a part of your child's journey throughout the year. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate in speaking to management.

