



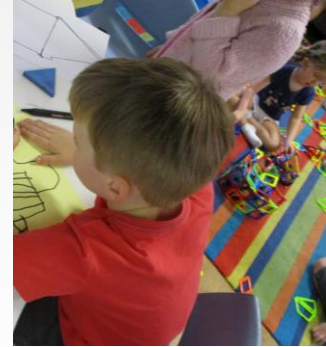
WELCOME TO SPRINGWOOD AND  
DISTRICT PRESCHOOL  
KINDERGARTEN



# OUR PHILOSOPHY

## "PLAY IS THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR PRESCHOOL"

- *At Springwood Preschool we acknowledge the Gungungurra and Dharug People, the traditional owners of the land on which we play and learn.*
- *At Springwood Preschool we believe that children have the right to a childhood. We provide a safe, warm, nurturing, stimulating environment for children to learn and grow through play.*
- *At Springwood Preschool the learning environment and curriculum is built upon the foundations of the Early Years Learning Framework V2. Opportunity to explore their interests, friendships and build on their current knowledge through open ended play allows children to make sense of their world. We encourage children's individual learning dispositions of curiosity, enthusiasm, confidence, commitment, reflexivity and co-operation.*
- *Our Philosophy Statement is available on our website and Facebook page*





# WHAT TO BRING TO PRESCHOOL?

- A backpack, big enough to hold all your child's belongings
- Lunch box- We follow the Munch and Move guidelines and our preschool nutrition policy, so please send healthy foods in your child's lunchbox. Please pack enough food for morning tea, lunch and an optional afternoon snack. Please do not send insulated lunch boxes as they are stored in the fridge.
- Refillable water bottle
- Spare clothes- shirt, pants, underwear and socks in a wet bag. We supply the wet bag as part your enrolment package.
- Strong supportive shoes like sandals or joggers- no thongs or crocs
- A bucket hat- this can be bought at preschool
- As we are a SunSmart preschool we ask for clothing that covers the shoulders.





# SPRINGWOOD PRESCHOOL IS AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

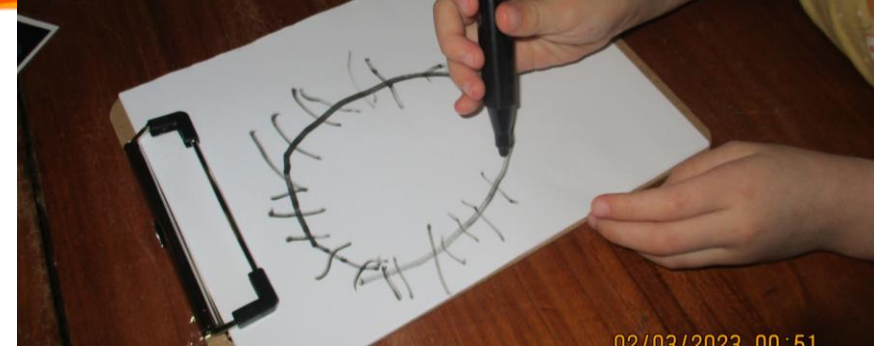
- Springwood Preschool is a community-based preschool, we are inclusive of all children and families.
- We aim to be a safe place for all families to feel valued and accepted for who they are. At the beginning of your time at preschool, we ask that you fill in your Being, Belonging and Becoming forms to help us support you and your child at preschool. This is your opportunity to share with us the parts of your family life that you feel are important for us to know.
- If there are religious/cultural or family traditions that you feel we need further information to support your child, please chat with your child's teacher.
- Springwood Preschool is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework Version 2.0 which states: "Educators acknowledge the histories, cultures, languages, traditions, religions, spiritual beliefs, child rearing practices and lifestyle choices of families. They build culturally safe and secure environments for all children and their families. Educators value children's unique and diverse capacities and capabilities and respect families' home lives".
- At times, your child may be included in discussions, sharing stories or using resources that refer to different cultures, religions or family structures. This is important to make all children feel valued and accepted. Our preschool is a place for all children to feel a sense of belonging!
- We would like all families to feel welcome and comfortable in our preschool. If you would like further information, please refer to our social justice and inclusion policies.





# OUR FLOW OF THE DAY

- **8.15am**.....Preschool begins. Families arrive & support children to put away belongings & apply sunscreen to get ready for the exciting day ahead
- Everyone is outdoors together until **9.30am**
- **9.30–12.30pm**.....When almost everyone has arrived, both the Possum & Wombat Rooms open & our indoor/outdoor free play session begins. Children choose where they would like to play. This can be outdoors or in either of the classrooms. Wombat & Possum children can play & explore in both rooms during this time.
- At **10.30/11am** all children will be supported to reapply sunscreen so they can continue to freely move between the indoor & outdoor environments. A hat must be worn outside.
- **9.30 -11.30am**.....Progressive morning tea. Children can choose when to eat their morning tea during this time.
- **12.30pm**.....Everyone transitions indoors into their designated classrooms.
- **12.30 -2/2.30pm**.....This is the time of the day when the children eat lunch as a group & engage in quieter activities. During this indoor period, the children will also be taking part in small group experiences such as sharing stories & music.
- **2/2.30pm**.....Transition outside for outdoor free play until preschool finishes. This transition process includes supporting the children to reapply sunscreen & pack their bag.
- **3.40pm**.....All children must be collected so educators can close preschool at **3.45pm**.
- NB. This is a guide. We are very flexible & our routine will change in the event of extreme weather (such as heat), the needs of the children and sometimes due to staff absences.







## ASTHMA, ALLERGIES AND ANAPHYLAXIS

- If your child has any allergies or other medical conditions such as Asthma, we ask that you make the time to speak to one of the educators and ensure that all medical information has been shared with the preschool. We need to ensure that parents of children with any of these conditions fill out specific documents i.e.: Asthma plans, Anaphylaxis plans: and return to us ASAP. No child can begin preschool until these forms are completed. If your child needs an Asthma Puffer or EpiPen , we ask that one is always kept at preschool.
- When packing lunch boxes, we ask that you do not send any foods containing Peanut or Tree nuts. These include nut-based spreads such as Nutella and peanut butter, and muesli bars.
- We are a sun smart preschool.
- We ask that all parents apply sunscreen to their child on arrival at preschool. Sunscreen is available at the sign in table . When needed the teachers will re-apply sunscreen throughout the day. All children need a wide brim hat and clothing that covers their shoulders.
- We supply children's sensitive sunscreen from the Australian Cancer Council. If your child cannot use this sunscreen, a risk assessment detailing why, needs to be completed with your child's teachers, and MSDAs of the alternative sunscreen used needs to be supplied.



# BUSH PLAY

- Across the road from our preschool is Blue Gum Lodge. We have been fortunate enough for the past 6 years to have had permission to play in the bush there, on Gundungurra and Dharug Land. The children are encouraged to take the lead in playing, exploring and learning in the natural environment. There are no toys and no tools. The children and adults benefit from using what nature has to provide. Bush play recognises the place the bush has in Australian folklore and the significance of the land in Aboriginal culture. Outdoor spaces with plants, trees, rocks, mud and water invite open ended interactions, spontaneity, risk taking and connection with nature. We are fortunate and privileged to live in a National Park in World Heritage listed area. We encourage respect and custodianship of the bush from picking up rubbish to respecting the homes of tiny insects when playing, to making sure we look for things that have fallen to the ground rather than picking them off plants and trees. We try to live what we say in our Acknowledgement of Country - "we promise to look after the land, the people and the animals".





# THE EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK SAYS:

Play is a context for learning that:

- allows for the expression of personality and uniqueness
- enhances dispositions such as curiosity and creativity
- enables children to make connections between prior experiences and new learning
- assists children to develop relationships and concepts
- stimulates a sense of wellbeing.





➤ At preschool we love to connect with the community. We explore our local community on walking excursions as well as having visits from local community members.





# WE VALUE YOUR FAMILY'S INPUT INTO YOUR CHILD'S JOURNEY AT PRESCHOOL



- By working together, parents and educators can enhance a child's learning and wellbeing.
- As the most important person in your child's life, you can make a difference by talking regularly with your child's early childhood educator and asking about their learning. This may take place through conversations at drop off and pick up time, email and phone calls. For more in-depth conversations, it is important to arrange a time to meet with your child's educator.
- Information you provide allows educators to link your child's experiences at home with the time they spend together in the early childhood setting.
- This is Brendan. Brendan is a parent at Springwood Preschool and has been visiting to share Culture with us for many years.



## Educational Program

Our indoor program is displayed in your child's room and the outdoor program is displayed outside near the sign in tables. Each week we will email you an update of what the children at preschool have been interested in or learning about in our Possum Press and Wombat Weekly. We love to hear about the interests of our families and welcome any feedback, as your ideas are a welcome addition to our program.



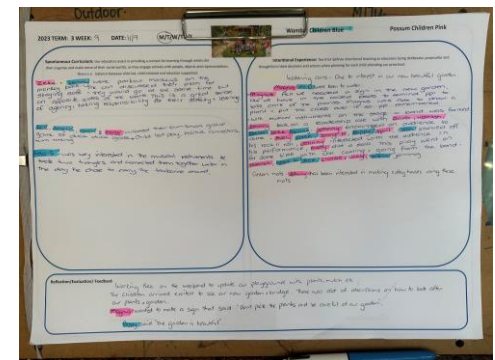
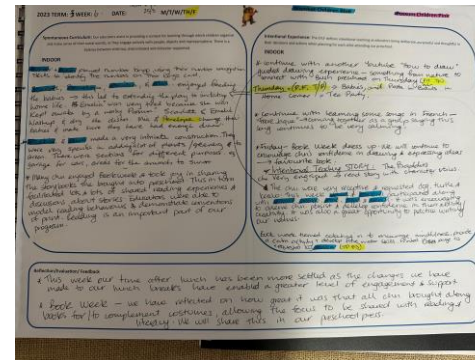
If you or a family member can play a musical instrument, instruct a yoga session, play a musical instrument, both a baby sibling, or share information about your occupation, we would love you to share it with us. It is only limited to your imagination, and we would love your input.



We also want to get to know the diverse abilities, cultures and practices we have in our community to enable us to learn and develop awareness of others.



At times, we seek the help of our parents or grandparents, to help us on our walking excursions. We would love for you to join us if you can.





# HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD SETTLE INTO PRESCHOOL....

- Talk about preschool regularly with your child and read your child the social story.
- Take a walk/drive past preschool in the holidays. Talk about what you can see.
- Pack a drink bottle and lunch box in a backpack, so your child gets used to using these.
- Practice wearing their preschool hat and applying sunscreen
- While we encourage children not to bring toys to preschool, if your child has a cuddly toy that helps them settle, please bring that with them. We have also found that putting some family photos in the child's bag can help children who are upset.
- Communication between teachers and families is very important. Please email, call or chat with us if you have any concerns.....no matter how small or insignificant.





# WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU NEXT YEAR AT PRESCHOOL.

- Your child will have lots of fun learning through play. They will get to explore, build, create, get messy, wet and dirty, but they are learning.
- They will learn to work alongside others, share and negotiate, as well as work co-operatively.
- They will build relationships with peers, educators and our local community.
- They will develop an awareness and appreciation for our environment.
- They will develop confidence in their own abilities and become confident to try new things.
- They will have fun. See you in 2025.





## STAY AND PLAY

► We invite you and your child to spend some time at preschool at our Stay and Play.

FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JAN 2025

► 12 - 1pm : Mon/Tue enrolments.

► 1.30 - 2.30pm : Thur/Fri enrolments.

