



St Lawrence's Primary School Bluff Point

Three Year Old Kindy

With Christ as our model, we seek to nurture our community in an environment that enables all to grow.

WELCOME

We welcome all the children and families commencing the St Lawrence's Three Year Old Kindy. We look forward to working together with your family to provide the best learning environment for your child. Our Three Year Old Pre-Kindy program provides an introduction to schooling for children and their families and sets the foundation for future school learning and Catholic faith.

WHAT IS THREE YEAR OLD KINDY?

Three Year old Kindy is an educational program for children who have turned three years of age before July 1. The program is play-based and provides children with meaningful experiences that promote the development of spiritual, social, emotional, language, intellectual, creative and physical skills. The educators aim to create a caring, safe and stimulating environment that will nurture your child's disposition to wonder, explore and construct meaning about themselves and the world around us. Our Three Year Old Kindy provides a transition from home to Kindy life whilst nurturing and building relationships between families and the St. Lawrence's school community.

OUR THREE YEAR OLD PROGRAM AIMS TO -

- Provide an environment supportive of the Catholic ethos which acknowledges the innate spirituality of every child, fosters the child's ability to wonder, experience awe, overcome difficulties, love others and reflect on God as their creator.
- Acknowledge, support and celebrate the partnership of families and communities in children's development and inclusion in the school community.
- Provide a happy, stimulating and supportive environment where the children feel welcome, secure and valued.
- Develop learning dispositions through developmentally appropriate learning experiences.
- Provide a program that will cater for a wide range of developmental abilities and interests allowing children to develop to their full potential and celebrate individual uniqueness.
- Provide a play based teaching and learning program that will encourage interactions with the environment through a balance of teacher initiated or directed activities, free play and discovery learning.
- Encourage children to become self-reliant and to be able to make choices.
- Nurture communication skills (verbal and non-verbal) so that children develop the ability to communicate their thoughts, ideas and feelings.
- Encourage self-help, self-efficacy and independence in young children.
- Develop Skills (social, emotional, language, intellectual, creative, physical and spiritual awareness).
- Encourage the formation of friendships, social skills and relationships with others.
- Engage children's interests, curiosity and creative expression.
- Cultivate knowledge and appreciation for cultures other than their own, particularly that of the local Australian aboriginal community.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Regulations prevent us taking a child until they have turned three years old. If your child has not turned three years old when the program commences they may be enrolled and we are happy to hold their place for you until after their third birthday. For further enrolment information please contact the school office on 9923 1047.

SESSION TIMES

Thursday 9.00 - 2.45pm (Group 1)

Friday 9.00 - 2.45pm (Group 2)

The 3 Year old Kindy Program aligns with the school terms and calendar.

CURRICULUM

National Quality Framework (NQF)

The NQF is a national legislative framework under which Early Childhood and Care Services operate in Australia. The NQF encompasses the Education and Care Services National Regulations under which the program operates.

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

Our teaching practices are guided by the EYLF which is a National Early Childhood curriculum. The curriculum is based on three key statements:

Belonging: Children being connected to family, culture and place.

Being: Children need opportunities to seek and make meaning of their world.

Becoming: Identifies children's knowledge, understanding, capacities, skills and relationships.

The EYLF emphasises the benefits of children learning through their innate sense of play. Play is integral to learning because it:

- is a natural and spontaneous activity for a child.
- allows for children's differences and encourages an individual approach.
- encourages children to learn through trial and error and experimentation.
- gives teachers the chance to observe and assess individual progress in an informal learning environment.

Our curriculum provides a strong, inclusive play-based learning focus where children are encouraged to investigate, hypothesise, question and respond to curriculum choices. Our language rich program caters for all levels of understanding and encourages self-resilience, social skills, literacy and numeracy. We have a focus on children's wellbeing and supporting them in social confidence, healthy lifestyles and problem solving.

DAILY REQUIREMENTS

- A **bag** large enough to carry all necessary items that they can carry themselves.
- A **hat** for outdoor play. Please note that the school has a “No hat, No play” policy to ensure sun safety for the children.
- A **small, labelled container of fruit/ healthy snacks** for morning tea.
- A **drink bottle** of water only, so children can help themselves to a drink throughout the day.
- A packed lunch in a **lunch box** to be eaten individually at lunch time.
- A **spare change of clothes** (suited to the season) in a plastic bag in your child’s school bag to allow us to attend to accidents or spills.

Please ensure all your child’s items are clearly labelled with their name.

WHAT TO WEAR

Children need to wear comfortable play clothes that can get messy and that are easy to manage for toileting. Also, please send your child in shoes that they can manage to take off and put on by themselves.

It is preferred that children are toilet trained. If your child is still not quite there, please advise educators and provide wipes and spare 'pull ups' to enable us to support your child in this learning process.

Please apply sunscreen to your child before they come to school. We will have sunscreen available to re-apply when needed.

REST AND RELAXATION

Our morning session finds the children very busy and active in participating in a wide range of activities and play situations, therefore, after lunch we encourage all children to have some quiet rest time. This allows children some downtime and prepares them for the quiet afternoon activities that follow.

Quiet stories are read and peaceful music or meditation is played during this time to help with the transition from busy morning play to quieter afternoon activities.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Please be on time to enable your child to feel settled, safe and secure. Children must be accompanied by a carer to and from the classroom and if another person is to collect your child the communication book must be filled in.

We realise that unforeseen circumstances may arise at times; therefore, if there is a change of person collecting your child or you are running late, please telephone the school to let us know.

Any child arriving or departing during school time must go through to front office to tag in and out.

MORNING TEA AND LUNCH

Morning Tea

We ask that you supply your child with their own small, labelled container of fruit/healthy snacks for morning tea. This may include:

- Fruit, vegetables (cut up)
- Crackers/plain popcorn
- Cheese
- yoghurt

Lunch

Each child is to bring their own lunch in a separate, named lunch box. We encourage healthy food choices and ask that you do not include treats.

We are a 'NUT AWARE' school so please refrain from sending food containing nuts or nut extracts with your children. This includes peanuts, peanut butter, nutella and bars.

COMMUNICATION

We consider communication between home and school to be very important. Our first concern is the well-being of your child. Should anything happen at home to upset your child in any way, we would appreciate it if you could let us know.

We will keep you informed about the Pre-Kindy program via notes sent home, emails and the parent noticeboard outside the classroom door.

School newsletters are sent out electronically once a week by the School and can be viewed on the school website at www.stlps.wa.edu.au. A newsletter is sent out during each term to keep you up to date with special events happening in the program.

If you have any queries, concerns or information regarding your child's well-being, please do not hesitate to speak with the teacher. Teachers are always available for an informal chat during class time for parents to quickly share information with us. However, if you need a longer meeting we will make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Please inform us about matters concerning your child's health and well-being and of changes at home that could effect his/her normal participation in the program.

FAMILY ROSTER

For term 1 and 2 we allow the children to settle into the routine of the Three Year Old Kindy and possibly the new experience of "being away" from Mum or Dad. Therefore there will be no Family Roster during this settling time. Once the children have settled the Family Help Roster will be put up on our noticeboard outside the main entrance doors. We greatly appreciate your involvement as a parent – and your child will LOVE this too! Parents or grandparents (if parents are unavailable) are invited to come along as a parent helper to visit, share their gifts and talents and participate in class experiences with your child.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Parental assistance in classrooms is a very important part of education. It must be stressed however, that just as staff are expected to maintain high standards of confidentiality, classroom volunteers are also expected to remain confidential about other's children.

ILLNESS AND ALLERGIES

Children with colds, influenza and other contagious conditions must be kept away from sessions until they have completely recovered. Please let us know if your child has an infectious disease such as chicken pox, hand/foot/mouth etc. so that other parents can be notified. A child with any illness quickly spreads it to other children and staff. Please be considerate of others.

Staff are not permitted to administer medications to the children without the completion of appropriate forms.

Please contact the school (via school web page -> contact us-> student absentee note) by 9.00am should your child be absent due to illness or other reasons.

HOME TOYS

We have a wealth of educational and play equipment. We discourage children from bringing toys and other precious items from home because they often get lost or damaged.

ART AND CRAFT / INTERESTING ITEMS

Developing the arts is an important part of our program. We appreciate any interesting items that can be creatively used for collage, box construction and other art activities. Items such as wrapping paper, cards, corks, bottle lids, old puzzle pieces, shells, pipes, etc. make a wonderful addition to our classroom. Please, no medical packages or toilet rolls for hygiene reasons.

We love having interesting things come into our room. They provide rich language experiences and excitement for our children. If you have something that may be interesting for us to learn about and explore i.e. nests, insects, animals, nature, photos, please feel free to bring it in.

SETTLING IN

The first few weeks will be very important for you and your child. One of the first things a child has to learn is how to be away from his/her parents or caregiver. This may take some time as children learn to adjust to unfamiliar adults, peers, environment and routine. We ask that for the beginning of each session you spend some time reading a story or engaging in play with your child to help them settle as they transition from home to school. Once they are comfortable say a 'happy goodbye' and leave. If your child is upset, please direct them to an educator before leaving. We will always contact you if they do not settle.

It is important to remember that starting something new can often be daunting for young children, so if the transition is not instant, do not be concerned. It may take several sessions before your child feels happy to be left with others. Educators will work closely with parents/caregivers to ensure that your child is given the best opportunity to settle at their own pace.

We look forward to getting to know you and your child and working together to provide a happy, positive learning experience that helps to strengthen your child's development and provide a foundation for lifelong learning.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14