



Learning through play on Djiringanj Country

Term 1 2021 Newsletter

Contact details: Phone: 6494 1847.

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Wallawani

We welcome you to our Preschool. Djiringanj, Thaua and Dhurga were the languages used by indigenous people of the South Coast. Wallawani is a local Aboriginal word used as a greeting and farewell.

Our staff

Jane Courtney

Director and Teacher Admin: Mon/Tue.

Teacher: 3-day group Wed/Thur/Fri

Kym Hawthorne

Teacher Mon/Tue: 2-day group.

Educator: 3-day group

Annette Turner

Educator: 2-day group

Mayumi Murphy

Educator: 2-day group.

Trish Whitford

Educator: 3-day group

Emily Monck

Educator: 3-day group

Chris Fantham

Administration Officer Wed/Thur

Handy hints to remember

- ✓ Name everything
- ✓ BROAD BRIMMED hat to play is a must please
- ✓ 2 LUNCH BOXES please
- ✓ Healthy food.
- ✓ Tathra Preschool is plastic free.
- ✓ Minimise throw away packaging.
- ✓ 1 drink bottle with water only.
- ✓ A few changes of spare clothing.

Tathra Preschool 2021 Term dates

Term 1: 27th Jan- 1st April

- 29th Jan: Friday: 3-day group commences.
- 1st Feb: Monday: 2- day group commences.
- 5TH MARCH AGM AND FAMILY BBQ
- 12th March: 2-day group Parent Teacher Meetings
- 15th March: 3-day group Parent Teacher meetings

Term2: 19th April—25th June

- 19th Student free
- 20th Children back

Term3: 12th July-17th September

Term 4: 5th October- 17th December

- 14th dec: Tuesday: last day for 2-day group
- 15th December: Wednesday; last day 3-day group
- 16th End of year Picnic: 12-2



Welcome Family BBQ and AGM

5th of March

Invitations out in the next few weeks.

Pop the date in your diary

COVID Safe Preschool

Health, safety, and well-being for children, staff and families is a priority for our Preschool. We continue to follow the NSW Department of Education and NSW Department of Health advice to minimise the spread of COVID-19. The Preschool has developed a COVID-19 Business Safety Plan which is registered with the Department of Health and Bega Valley Council. We continue to review and reflect on our policies and procedures to ensure a high standard of health and hygiene for all.

Keeping children at home when unwell is a key strategy to minimise the spread of infectious diseases. If your child is unwell, we advise that you seek medical advice as to whether a COVID test is required.



The Department of Education advises that services do not need to abide by the 4-metre space requirement for children attending Preschools. However, SafeWork continues to emphasise that we implement physical distancing where possible.

Preschool guidelines to help minimise the spread of Covid-19:

- ✧ Any child, staff member or parent/carer who is unwell should not attend the Preschool and seek medical advice as to the need for a COVID test.
- ✧ We request families follow social distancing where possible at drop off and pickup times. Please continue to stagger your arrivals and departures where possible.
- ✧ All adults and children to apply hand sanitiser prior to entering the Preschool.
- ✧ One adult per enrolled child keeps us keep numbers to a minimum when settling in your child into Preschool.
- ✧ A staff member will sign your child in and out. Please witness the sign in and out as this is an official document and part of our licensing responsibilities.
- ✧ The fridge will be kept open (during arrival times) to minimise touch zones.

General Guidelines

- ✧ Wash your hands for 20 seconds. The children are great at this. Get them to teach you our handwashing song. Counting to 20 slowly is also a good strategy. Follow this up at home as we know hand washing is a key strategy to minimise the spread of infectious diseases.
- ✧ Sneeze or cough into your elbow or a tissue
- ✧ Place used tissues straight into a red rubbish bin.
- ✧ Wash your hands after using a tissue.
- ✧ Avoiding touching one's eyes, nose and mouth.
- ✧ Avoid sharing food or drink.

Typical symptoms of COVID-19 infection:

- Fever
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Fatigue

You are welcome to flick us an email, call or chat to staff if you any questions and or would like more information and resources.

Educational Program

The National Early Years Learning Framework has been developed to ensure children receive quality education in early childhood settings. At Tathra Preschool we use the Early Years Learning Framework in partnership with families to develop an educational program which is responsive to children’s ideas, interests, strengths and abilities. Our teaching and educational program is organised around 5 learning outcomes:

1. Children have a strong sense of identity.
2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world.
3. Children have a strong sense of well-being.
4. Children are confident and involved learners.
5. Children are effective communicators.

Each child will have a photo above their bag hook and a photo at the front entry to sign in and out each day. These resources create a sense of belonging and foster a sense of identity.” A sense of belonging is essential if children are to be successful learners. By fostering belonging we also foster wellbeing and learning” (Early Years Learning Framework).

You will receive book for your child to take home after their first day of preschool. This resource helps you and your child to become familiar with the names of their teachers and the children in their group. We will be planning our day to provide familiar and open-ended experiences which enable children to feel successful and confident, eg books and story experiences, imaginative play, play dough, painting, water and sand. There will be lots of opportunities to share holiday stories and the joy of summer in our local area.



Getting to know you child

You will find the Children’s Diary next to the sign in and out book. We encourage you to read through the diary, ask questions and make suggestions. It is always great to hear about the things that interest your child and family, which can be incorporated into our day. In the afternoon you will see photos we have taken (downloaded onto a digital photo screen) so we can share our day with you.

We have a Teaching Journal in the staff room where we document children's learning, interests and needs. We set aside time for parent/teacher meetings in Term 1 and 3. The 2 -day group parent/teacher meetings will be held on Friday 12th of March with Kym. The 3-day group meetings will be held on Monday 15th of March with Jane. Pop these dates in your diary and we will send you a booking invitation closer to the date.

Transition to Preschool: Your child's first weeks at preschool

We aim for children to feel safe, secure and supported at preschool as they establish relationships with teachers, educators and other children. Children will vary in how much time they need to become comfortable and confident at preschool. Some children will come running in the door keen for you to go. Some children will need more time to get to know us and become familiar with the routine of the day. Some children will settle quickly in the first few weeks and then experience separation anxiety in week 3 or 4.

Families are welcome to spend time at preschool to help children as they settle in. Half days are helpful for new children as they become familiar with the preschool day. Feel free to approach any of the teachers and educators if you need help to settle in your child. It is a good idea to link your departure to a specific activity, eg, time your departure with morning tea or stay with your child to do a painting together and then say good-bye. An early pick is a good idea while your child is settling into the preschool routine. Please feel free to talk to us about what suits you and your child best.

If your child is upset/anxious or unsettled while at Preschool, we will ring you to seek your guidance. You are welcome to ring and check on your child throughout the day.



EAT A RAINBOW EVERYDAY

Two lunch boxes for our mealtimes please. A separate container for morning tea and lunch makes it easier for the children and us. Please avoid thermal bags to store children's food. **The Department of Health has advised us that we are unable to store food in the fridge in thermal bags as they keep the cold out.**

Water only please in children's drink bottles. The Department of health recommends water daily. Fruit juice and cordial is referred to as a sometimes food and not appropriate for daily consumption.

We aim to be plastic free so please support us in reducing the use of soft plastics in our environment. We like to **avoid packaged foods**. Fresh fruit, sandwiches, last night's dinner are all good to encourage healthy eating at preschool and help us reduce our rubbish. Chocolate treats, lollies, flavoured yoghurt (which is high in sugar) and chips are classified as sometimes foods and not recommended as part of children's daily food intake and not appropriate for preschool.

Children are often hungry by Morning Tea and often require something substantial to eat like a sandwich. A sandwich for morning tea and lunch is fine. Please, please, please remember healthy food options for preschool. It gives children a mixed message if they are eating an apple and then sitting next to a child who is eating chips or chocolate biscuits. In the interest of creating great lifelong habits please support our healthy food policy.

Sun safe policy

We are a Sun Smart Preschool. All children are required to wear a broad brimmed hat. You are welcome to apply sunscreen before your child starts the day. You will find sunscreen on the shelf above drink bottles. We program our day so we are out of the sun in the hottest part of the day and we are lucky we have lots of shade in our playground. We will help children to apply broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors for our afternoon play. Please let us know if you do not want your child to use the preschool sunscreen.



Budget

We are pleased to announce preschool fees will be free for term 1. The COVID-19 **free preschool funding program** has been extended by the NSW Government throughout 2021 to continue to support families with cost-of-living pressures and to support the ongoing provision of 600 hours of early childhood education in the year before school.

Extended Care Fee - \$10 per half hour (8.30 - 9.00am and 3.00 – 3.30pm). This fee will only apply to children in the 3-day program. For charging purposes, a “half hour” is defined as more than 15minutes in the 30-minute slot.

Updating Paperwork

When and if your child receives a new immunisation please provide a copy of the Immunisation History Statement for our records.

Projects and improvements completed over the holidays.

- New carpet and vinyl in the playroom. A big thank you to Sally Inkster for managing this project. The project was fully funded by a capital works grant.
- Rocks look beautiful around the Tathra Preschool Sign. A big thank you to Nicole and Dean Collins for getting the rocks here.
- Compost Education Hub. A big thank you to David Foster landscape designer /parent. Tim from Proscapes did a great job. Signage funded by a Bega Valley Sustainability Waste grant is still in progress. We look forward planting veggies in our new planter boxes and engaging with the science of composting.



Annual Feedback Survey

Thanks to all those families who filled in our 2020 Annual Feedback survey. We have started to use this feedback to plan for our quality improvements in 2021.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

We like to deconstruct old technology to investigate their inner workings. Please collect old desktop computers, old stereos, computer keyboards and old technology. If it can be taken apart with a Phillips head screwdriver then we can reuse it

- Scrap booking supplies are a good resource for children's art. Milk bottle lids and yogurt containers are also good.
- We love the shoe boxes from the shoe shops.
- Greeting cards are good resources for office /post office imaginative play. A great way to re-use old cards
- **Bits and pieces**
- Please bring in flowers and greenery to fill our vases and create a beautiful space in our playroom.
- keep an eye out for any preschool bits and pieces that come home. Children at this age can be such hunters and gatherers.

Guinea Pigs

Thankyou Eve McCreery and family for caring for Twinkie and Fluffy during the school holidays.

2020 Management Committee

President: Sally Inkster

Vice President: Mel Galvin

Secretary: Steve Totterdell.

Treasurer: Nicole Collins

General Members: Matt Alterator, Simone Harvey and Nathan Da Silva

