



Heathcote Kindergarten's Frequently Asked Questions

Foregrounding Aboriginal Perspectives:

We build relationships and engage with the local community in the following ways:

We go on local excursions to various businesses/environments in our community. We visit the Liquid Ambers four times a year over the changing seasons to learn about country and what it teaches us. We visit the community house many times throughout the year, to assist with their gardens and engage in community activities/events that are being conducted.

We also have several members from groups in the community visit the Kinder children. Parents can also come along and help or share an interest with the children.

Collaborative Generative Thinking:

The expertise of families is recognised, and they share in the decision making about the children's learning and wellbeing, this occurs in the following ways:

Our families have access to a programming platform called Story Park. Children's development/growth is shared with families, and they are able to comment and share their own personal development as a family. We have three learning review days each year where families are encouraged to sit down with staff and discuss their child's learning. Parents are also encouraged to write on the program or have incidental conversations with staff.

Families have the opportunity to be involved in our service by:

- Cutting the fruit every day for the children's afternoon tea
- Attending excursions
- Coming in and sharing their special talent with us
- Volunteer in the Parent Advisory Group
- Gardening around the Kinder

Opening to Complexity:

We promote child agency by:

The foundations of our program is listening to children and providing them with an environment that caters to their needs. When referring to children's agency it is important to listen with respect to the child's voice, their words, and their ideas. Agency is defined as being able to make choices and decisions to influence events and have impact to one's world. The children at Heathcote kindergarten are given these opportunities daily.

Every Moment Matters:

Our program, including routines is organised in ways that maximize opportunities for each children's learning. A normal day at our kindergarten usually runs like:

Arrival and Departure

Kookaburras: Monday and Tuesday (8:30-4:00)

Echidnas: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (9.00-2.00)



Routine: (Long Days)

- 8:30am: Kinder doors open (Inside play)
- 9:30am: Children come together for a story on the mat.
- 10:00am: Children have their own piece of fruit (Morning Tea)
- 10:30am: Free Play inside or outside depending on weather.
- 12.00pm: Lunch time
- 12.30pm: Group time
- 1:00pm: Free play inside or outside depending on the weather.
- 2:30pm: Afternoon Tea (Shared Fruit platter)
- 3:15pm: Inside group time
- 4:00pm: Kindergarten Session Finishes

Meaningful Documentation:

Our Educational Program is shared with families in many ways, here are some of them:

- Through a programming app called Story Park
- An indoor and outdoor program is displayed at the front of the kindergarten near where parents sign in.
- Via email and through text message.

Each child's learning and development is assessed as part of an ongoing cycle of planning, documenting and evaluation, we share this with families and seek their involvement by:

Uploading individual children's observations onto our programming app so all parents can observe their children's learning and write conversations back to educators. We encourage families to upload photos and comments of what their children are doing so we can draw on these interests.

Keeping the Joy:

We value:

Our children, families and staff at Heathcote Kindergarten. Heathcote is a small community and we value all aspects of our community.

Being Professional:

Educators Strive to:

We create a safe and secure environment for all members of our kinder community. We ensure that we are welcoming to everyone who enters our Kindergarten and we strive to make your experience with us one you will not forget and for your children to have memories/skills that will help them throughout their school years and beyond.