

Frequently asked questions

Acceptance, Enrolment, Allocation of Groups:

When will I know if my child is accepted in your Pre-School?

- Council send out first round offers in July. Towards the end of September after all 'third round offers' are finalized; we get the completed List of Enrolments from council.

When do I find out the group choices?

- Once we have this enrolment list from Nillumbik Council, we promptly email all families our Eltham Woods Preschool forms with options for you to select your program / days / extended care needs.
- We ask that you send your choice back as soon as possible.
- Families must complete and return these with enrolment deposit by a certain date.

When am I notified about the session I need?

- As soon as we get the forms back from families and allocate spots we can notify families.

When do I get information about Orientation?

Around November, at our AGM, or shortly after, we provide you with an Information Pack that explains the Interview and Orientation Program.

Program Questions:

Our Philosophy reflects our Families wishes for their Children.

How do you work with children? Are you different?

- All Preschools use the Early Years Learning and Development Framework.
- Our Families and staff are passionate about Environmental Issues and incorporating Indigenous perspectives into our programs.

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Do children just 'play' all day?

- Yes, children do play.
- They are provided with open ended, play based experiences that support or allow them to learn at the level of development that suits them best. Purposeful Play is the medium through how children best learn.
- The Teachers and Educators all guide children during play to expand their knowledge and skills.

My child has special requirements / medical / additional needs how will you accommodate these?

- We are happy for you to communicate with us early about the individual needs of your child. This way we can then put in place any extra supports that may be required.
- Our Staff are all trained in working with children with additional needs, and will adjust their programming to support the inclusion of your child. Open ended materials are able to support play entry at a multiple range of developmental levels.

Can you explain the routine of the day?

- Our usual routine consists of free play either inside or outside depending on numbers and weather for the day. Morning tea follows a group time, either large or small, that may be a picnic outside or at tables inside.
- Group times may be: a discussion (our Morning Meeting); action songs or dancing; story times; puppets; science experiment; reflection of mornings learning; etc. Depending on children's interests and program.
- Outside time is usually following this, or inside time, depending on the way the day has flowed. We are flexible in this depending on individual children's attention, interests, skills and needs.
- Lunchtime is similar to snack time and can be either picnics or tables.
- Rest / quiet time follows this, and then children again choose where they wish to play. Children always support staff in the pack away and set up of their play spaces.
- At the end of day children currently pack their bags and meet again for our final goodbyes.
- Children attending our Extended Care are allowed to then regroup with the same staff until collected.

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What types of communication / feedback can I expect? How can I be involved?

- At Eltham Woods we encourage parent participation, we want you to be involved in your child's preschool year.
- Our staff welcome the sharing of information at the Interview and during Orientation weeks. This supports a smooth transition for your family. Whilst we don't provide lots of learning stories, be assured we are spending time evaluating, reflecting and supporting your child's learning in a continual planning cycle. Towards the mid-year we conduct night time interviews to develop shared goals for your child. We also informally discuss your child's needs as the year progresses, and as is required.
- Towards the end of the 4 year old's year you are also involved in completing an Online Transition Report / statement that is sent to your child's school.

How do children adapt to the Long Days? How do I know if my child will cope with these?

- Our experienced staff support children to manage their energy levels for the Long Days in a number of ways. Whilst some children are used to longer days, others may need more support.
- Children all have a variety of individual needs.
- Our indoor and outdoor spaces are set up and managed in a way that supports children individually, every day.
- There is a mix of busy and some quieter areas / experiences so children can choose these away from others if necessary.
- We also allow children to move between the indoors and outdoors over the course of their day.
- After lunch we provide a quieter down time / or rest time that allows children to rest and reset their bodies.
- Children will rest on a small pillow and may either listen to music / listen to us read them a story / or we may do children's yoga with a small group.
- We reflect on this to adapt to individual children's needs at this time. Our Sleep / Rest policy is available on our website.
- Eating is a relaxing experience in the afternoon snack break.