



Our Vision: To deliver evidence-based learning and wellbeing practices in an inclusive school culture.

Welcome to Yates Avenue Public School Preschool-2023

An Information Booklet



Contact information:

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Our Preschool is a Department of Education Preschool situated within the grounds of Yates Avenue Public School.

Our Philosophy:



Yates Avenue Public School 2022 Preschool Philosophy

Vision: To deliver evidence-based learning and wellbeing practices in an inclusive school culture.

Collaborative Relationships:

- Partnerships with children, families, educators and community are at the heart of our school culture.
- Interactions are respectful, responsive, open and ongoing.
- We value individual culture, learning needs, strengths, ideas, personalities, abilities and interests.
- We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as our traditional custodians and honour the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ensuring relationships are equitable.

Environment

- Learning environments empower children to make influential decisions about their world.
- The environment is welcoming and an inclusive learning space for all children.
- The identity and diversity of our school community is implemented and present.



Wellbeing

- Equity, inclusion and diversity to ensure successful, confident and capable learners.
- Positive Behaviour Learning so our children are safe, responsible and respectful.
- Munch and Move program to promote healthy eating for life-long habits.
- The program promotes positive social interactions with peers and educators.

Successful Learners

- Teaching and learning are child led and meaningful to the lives of children.
- Play-based learning to investigate, discover, create and support transition to school.
- Ongoing professional learning for educators and a focus on continuous improvement.
- High expectations for teaching programs and routines which are intentional.
- Program and practices are in line with the National Quality Standards, Aboriginal 8 ways of learning, Early Years Learning Framework and evidence-based research.

Children's voices:

What do you like about Preschool?

Sherry: "My friends to play with"

Zayd: "I like the Dinosaurs, crocodile and painting"

Myla: "The sandpit and the wearing my T-shirt, they're so special!"

March 2022

Attendance

Two preschool classes **Dolphins** and **Turtles** attend two days each week with one group attending and every second Wednesday. This makes up a five-day fortnight.

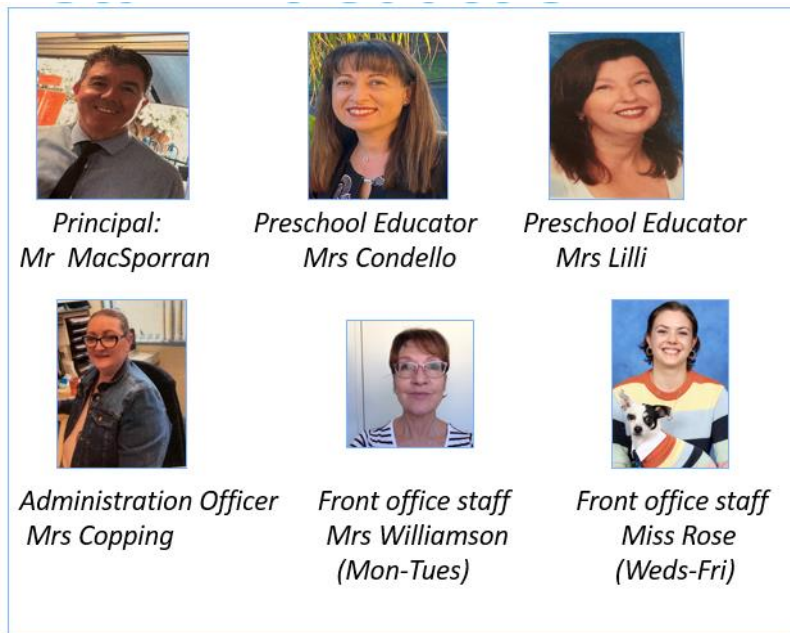
Days of Attendance:		Week A	
Dolphins		Turtles	
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday		Thursday, Friday	
		Week B	
Dolphin		Turtles	
Monday, Tuesday		Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	

Staff:

Classes have an Early Childhood teacher (ECT) and a Student Learning Support Officer (SLSO). The ECT holds a Teaching degree in Early Childhood Education and the SLSO holds a Certificate III in Education and Support Special Needs.

Staff work collaboratively to support quality interactions with children and maintain the child ratio as 1:10 with a maximum of 20 children.

Educators continue to engage in ongoing professional learning. Our teaching and learning program reflects our current research and continuous self-assessment. Collaborative planning ensures we provide a high-quality *preschool and transition to school program* whilst meeting learning outcomes for each child.



National Quality Standards:

We have a strong focus on reflective practice and commitment to ongoing continuous improvement against the 7 National Quality Standards, this ensures high quality teaching and learning programs for every child.

Yates Avenue Preschool is proud to have achieved an **overall rating of “Exceeding the National Quality Standard”**.



Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)



We value collaborative partnerships with our families to achieve quality outcomes for children. We actively seek ongoing feedback from families throughout the year to help us continually improve on all that we do. The Quality Improvement Plan is kept in the foyer and accessible for you to provide ongoing feedback. We aim to provide a high-quality teaching and learning environment. Ongoing self-review against the National Quality Standard is fundamental to an effective cycle of improvement.

Preschool Curriculum

The National Quality Standard and “Early Years Learning Framework” - “*Belonging, Being and Becoming*”, drives our Preschool curriculum. This ensures we provide a nurturing environment and a quality educational program based on learning through play with a child centred focus. In developing quality programs, we meet the outcomes required to support and enhance children’s learning that also includes transition to school.



National Early Years Learning Framework 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 wellbeing	4. Children are confident and involved learners	5. Children are effective communicators
<p>1.1 Children feel safe, secure, and supported.</p> <p>1.2 Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and sense of agency.</p> <p>1.3 Children develop knowledgeable and confident self identities.</p> <p>1.4 Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect.</p>	<p>2.1 Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation.</p> <p>2.2 Children respond to diversity with respect.</p> <p>2.3 Children become aware of fairness.</p> <p>2.4 Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.</p>	<p>3.1 Children become strong in their social and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>3.2 Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing.</p>	<p>4.1 Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity.</p> <p>4.2 Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating.</p> <p>4.3 Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another.</p> <p>4.4 Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed material</p>	<p>5.1 Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.</p> <p>5.2 Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts.</p> <p>5.3 Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media.</p> <p>5.4 Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work.</p> <p>5.5 Children use information and communication technologies to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking.</p>

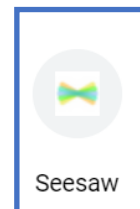
Strong relationships support strong learning outcomes for children

Building strong relationships with children and families is at the heart of our Preschool. We value respectful and equitable connections which support children to build sensitive and responsive relationships with others.



Communication is crucial in ensuring that we are providing the best support, environment and maintain up to date with current practices. The routine allows opportunities for us to speak with each other in the morning or afternoon. If required, we can book a time for lengthier conversations.

Seesaw is an App. This allows us to communicate and share photos or school information. The information for you to access Seesaw will be provided when you commence Preschool.



Skoolbag App. This will give you access to the school newsletter. The newsletter includes important information, dates and events that are happening across the whole school community including preschool. It will keep you informed and up to date with current happenings.



Children learn best through play

Our program provides intentional play-based learning centred around relationships, observations of children and planning. We offer a program that is flexible and reflects interests and cultural diversity of the children.

Opportunities for children to engage in a range of developmental learning experiences, comprising of language, literacy, numeracy, emotional, cognitive, physical and social skills. These build the foundation to further children's lifelong love of learning, engagement and curiosity.

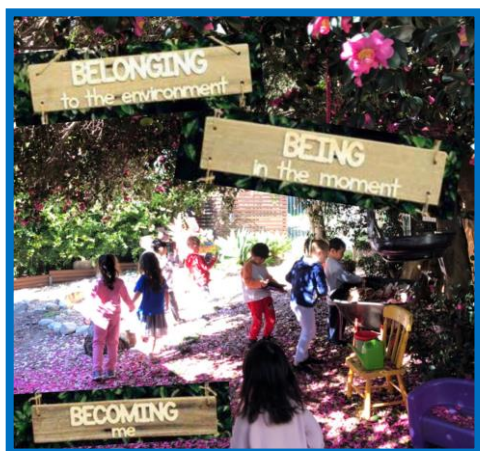
Educators are responsive to children and engage in meaningful interactions with them. We actively engage in ongoing reflections, decision making, planning and documentation. Individual learning programs support children's learning within the indoor and outdoor environments in small or large groups.

Preschool Grounds



Our Preschool is located within its own securely-fenced grounds in the school. Our large outdoor learning environment is an extension of indoors and features both natural and made learning spaces;

- sand pit
- covered outdoor eating area
- playground equipment
- outdoor deck
- native and vegetable gardens



Flexible indoor and outdoor learning spaces support play and learning across all curriculum areas. These includes;

- literacy
- numeracy
- science
- technology
- creative arts (music, visual art, drama, dance) physical activity
- social and emotional development
- language

Arrival and Departure

Preschool operating hours are 9am to 3:00pm. Only a parent, caregiver or authorised adult over the age of 18 may bring or collect a child/ren from Preschool. On arrival and at pick up, the adult must ensure they sign the arrival and departure book, which is kept at the entrance of our Preschool. Your signature and the time of arrival and departure must be recorded. **Please note that Preschool children will not be released to siblings under 18.**



No child will be released to anyone other than adults you have nominated in the authorisation form. They will need to bring a photo identification, e.g. Drivers' licence. Telephone the school office prior to 3:00pm to notify alternative collection arrangements.

Arrival Routine

Antibacterial hand gel is provided for parents, educators and visitors to use when they enter.

Sunscreen is also available for you to apply on your child each day. Children will also "sign in" and put their school bag into their allocated locker. They are encouraged to



take out their own lunch box and water bottle. The child will place their lunch box in their tote tray and water bottle in the bottle carrier for easy access.

Children are then required to wash their hands before choosing an activity before saying goodbye to parents/caregivers. ***Always let your child know when you are leaving. Sneaking away can cause anxiety for your child. Educators can support you through the separation process. Please let us know if you need help.***

Local Procedures

Yates Avenue Preschool has developed local procedures to accompany Departmental policies that are specific to our preschool. These are located in our preschool foyer.

Daily Routine

Our daily routine is located in the preschool foyer. It is flexible and reflective of the SunSmart recommendations.

Absences

If your child is unwell or will be absent from Preschool, we ask that you contact the school office on 9874 6302 to let us know. Alternatively, you can send a message to the educators via Seesaw App.



Illness

Please keep your child at home if any illness is suspected to avoid the risk of infecting other children. If your child develops symptoms of illness during the day, they will be made as comfortable as possible and you will be contacted immediately to collect your child. It is a Health Department requirement that children must be away for 24 hours after the last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea. Please ensure that your contact details are up to date in case of emergency.



Allergies

Our Preschool is an “Anaphylaxis-Aware Preschool”. Many children have serious allergies to various foods including nuts. Please refrain from sending Nutella, peanut butter or foods containing any type of nuts. We actively discourage the sharing of food.

Nut-Free Zone



Birthdays

We love celebrating birthdays at Preschool. Cupcakes are welcome. Your welcome to join us for the celebration. We will take photos to capture the moment. If your child has a diagnosed allergy, please provide an alternative food. This can be kept in our freezer for when it is needed.



Fruit and/or Vegetable Time

Our Preschool program includes a “Crunch & Sip” routine each day. Please provide a small container of fruit and/or vegetables each day, cut and ready to eat. “Crunch & Sip” is a whole-school initiative to promote healthy life-long eating habits.



Water

Please ensure your child brings a plastic water bottle to Preschool each day. They will be refilled with water during the day as needed. Water is the only drink children require at Preschool.



Lunch and Afternoon Tea

We promote healthy eating habits for lifelong learning. We actively promote healthy lunches and snacks. We encourage children to eat their main meal before other foods in their lunchbox. Uneaten food will be sent home in their lunchbox. This will allow you to see what your child has eaten during the day. Reusable containers instead of plastic wrap helps to promote lifelong environmental learning.

An Ice brick or Ice-pack MUST be used with any foods in the lunch box that are non-perishable, such as yoghurt, cheese and meat. This is a health requirement.



Educators can assist with lunch box ideas and suggestions and provide you with further information. Some healthy food ideas, include;

- sushi
- fruit
- vegetables
- sandwich
- cheese and biscuits
- sultanas and dried fruit
- dips or hummus
- pasta
- rice



Please do not send chocolates, nuts, chips, lollies, cordial, soft drink or flavoured milk. These will be sent back home.

Munch and Move

Munch and Move is a NSW Health Program. At Yates Avenue Preschool, we embrace this. Program by promoting healthy eating, active play and drinking water every day. Preschool educators sit with the children during mealtimes. They model and discuss healthy practices, encourage independence and support social skills during these valuable routine times and learning opportunities.



Hats and Sun Safety

Children must bring a hat to preschool every day to wear during outdoor play. In the summer months, sunscreen needs to be applied before or on arrival. Educators will re-apply when required.

Children are required to wear clothing with short sleeves for sun protection (no singlet tops).



Preschool T-Shirts and Preschool Hats

If you prefer your child to wear a uniform, we have a Yates Avenue Preschool T-shirt and hat available for purchase. Please see the Uniform shop on the School grounds. An order form is included in your orientation pack. Extra order forms available at the School office.

Uniforms promote a sense of belonging. Preschool shirts are royal blue. The hats are available in a variety of colours.



Health and Safety

- Ensure your child is wearing clothes that can get wet or messy (play clothes).
- All children must wear closed-in shoes (no thongs).
- Comfortable and easy clothing for your child is important. Please note belts and pants with zips are difficult for children to use. Shorts and pants with elastic are easier for children to manage independently.
- The toilet is accessible for children to use as needed, please encourage them to use the toilet independently and sensibly.
- Toileting, nose blowing, coughing, sneezing into the elbow and hand washing are important health and hygiene skills we practice. Please continue to reinforce these skills at home.



Incursions and Excursions

Many in-school activities and events are planned throughout the year. Some of these involve external people visiting us or internal activities, such as Harmony day, Fire Brigade, attending library and assemblies. Internal activities provide children with the opportunity to become familiar with the Kindergarten to Year 6 (K-6) school environment. These experiences are planned to support positive transition to school. External visits enable our learning to be extended. These events will be communicated to families as they are planned through our newsletter, program, SkoolBag and Seesaw.

Labelling Children's Property

Clearly label ALL belongings with your child's name

- hat
- clothing
- lunchboxes
- drink bottles
- school bags
- sheets



Toys

Our policy states, children are not permitted to bring toys to preschool, unless it is a **comforter that your child requires**. This ensures that no items of importance are lost, misplaced or broken and prevents children from being disappointed. The preschool has a lot of toys for us to explore with a massive range to choose from.

Library

The children have the opportunity to borrow from our school library and will need a library bag. Books and reading provide endless opportunities for children to gain exposure to print and lay the foundations for reading, writing, talking and listening skills. Any books that are damaged or lost will need to be replaced by the parent.

Medication

If your child has asthma or allergies you will discuss a health care plan with your child's educator prior to commencing. Administration of prescribed medication forms part of an individual health care plan. Please inform educators if your child is taking any medication even if it is not being administered at preschool.



The Student of the Day Book (SOD)

The children will take turns to bring home our SOD book. This a valuable link between home and Preschool and an opportunity for the children to share their stories with their friends at Preschool.



Portfolios

Children create an individualised Portfolio that celebrates their learning achievements and development throughout the year. Parents are welcome to view their child's portfolio and can add stories, drawings, photos or events from home.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

We adopt a whole school approach to PBL to support learning and wellbeing outcomes for all children. Using the PBL values, we are learners who are:

- safe
- responsible
- respectful



Yates Avenue Preschool promotes a positive approach to guiding and managing children's behaviour within an environment that is predictable, consistent, safe and supportive. All interactions and experiences are valuable teaching and learning opportunities to support children's social development. Children are supported to manage their own behaviour, respond appropriately to the behaviour of others and communicate effectively to resolve conflicts.

Preschool Pockets

Each child has their own "Preschool Pocket" easily identified by their name. These contain children's work, notes from the office and other information. Please check your child's "pocket" each morning and afternoon. These are located inside the gate and on the wall at the front of the Preschool.

Rest, Read and Relaxation

Flexible rest, sleep and relaxation opportunities are provided in response to individual needs. Preschool children require a balance of active and passive times throughout the day. Flexible opportunities for children to rest their bodies during the day are also achieved through relaxation, music, reading, quiet activities and “Yoga at Yates”.



Sustainability

Sustainability is promoted and embed for lifelong practices. We recycle daily fruit and vegetable waste into our compost bin. We recycle paper and encourage families to reduce the amount of unrecyclable waste, for example. using plastic containers for food instead of plastic wrap. In this way the plastic container can be washed and reused.



We continually seek household and garden items we can re-purpose at Preschool. If you have any preloved items you feel might be suitable to repurpose, please see Preschool staff.

Transition to school program

Attending our preschool provides a valuable opportunity, as we belong to Yates Avenue Public School. This will support your child in preparing for their Primary years. (K- 6).

Children will begin to familiarise with staff from the Primary school, as they regularly spend time with us.

Preschool children are involved in many school activities throughout the year, our transition program begins on day one and continues throughout the year.

P-6 staff collaborate to plan innovative transition to school activities and events. These activities enable the children to develop relationships and establish connections with the school community.

Transition activities include;

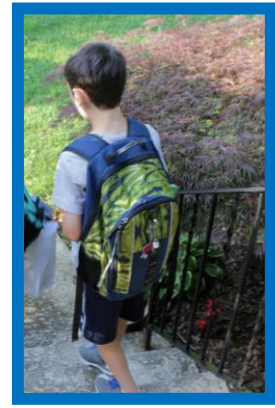
- classroom visits
- library visits
- shared recess and lunch times
- school assemblies
- canteen days
- sport activities
- walks to the school office
- walks to explore the BIG school environment, such as toilets, library, canteen and ovals
- big Buddies/Little buddies’ program.



What to bring to Preschool each day

A **large** backpack with the following:

- a refillable water bottle
- lunch box containing healthy morning tea and lunch meal
- a wide brimmed hat
- full change of clothes (clearly labelled with their name)
- a plastic bag for wet clothes
- a single bed sheet or small sleeping bag and small pillow if your child requires a sleep.
- library bag



Please remember to replace these items when they have been used.



Donations

We would also greatly appreciate the following items from each family

- 1 Box of tissues
- 1 Pack baby wipes, preferably from Woolworths/ Coles/ Aldi



Belonging to Our Community!

We look forward to a wonderful year with you and your children. If there is anything you would like to discuss further with the educators, please feel free to do so.

Together, we aim for a happy, positive transition from home to Preschool and to establish a lifelong love of learning!

