

Casuarina Street Preschool – Tindal Campus

Community Centre RAAF Base, TINDAL, NT,
0853

Phone 0427 331 646



Educational Leader of this Service: Ms. Emily Byrne

Assistant Educator: Mrs. Nicole Carson

Approved Provider: Department of Education

Nominated Supervisor: Miss Renez Lammon

Parent Information Handbook 2024

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Staff and contact details

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Nominated Supervisor (School Principal) – Miss. Renez Lammon renez.lammon@education.nt.gov.au Tel: (08) 8973 3800</p> |  |
| <p>Educational Leader of the service – Ms. Emily Byrne emily.byrne@education.nt.gov.au Tel: 0427 331 646</p> |  |
| <p>Assistant Educator: Mrs. Nicole Carson</p> |  |
| <p>Assistant Principal/Support Mr. Damien O’Brien damien.obrien@education.nt.gov.au Tel: (08) 8973 3800</p> |  |
| <p>Anna Geary Student Support Teacher anna.geary@education.nt.gov.au Tel: (08) 8973 3800</p> |  |

2024 dates and holidays

| Term | Start | Finish |
|--------|---|---------------------|
| Term 1 | Tuesday 30 January • for teachers, Monday 29 January | Friday 5 April |
| Term 2 | Monday 15 April | Friday 21 June |
| Term 3 | Tuesday 16 July • for teachers, Monday 15 July | Friday 20 September |
| Term 4 | Monday 7 October | Friday 13 December |

Taken from: <https://nt.gov.au/learning/primary-and-secondary-students/school-term-dates-in-nt>

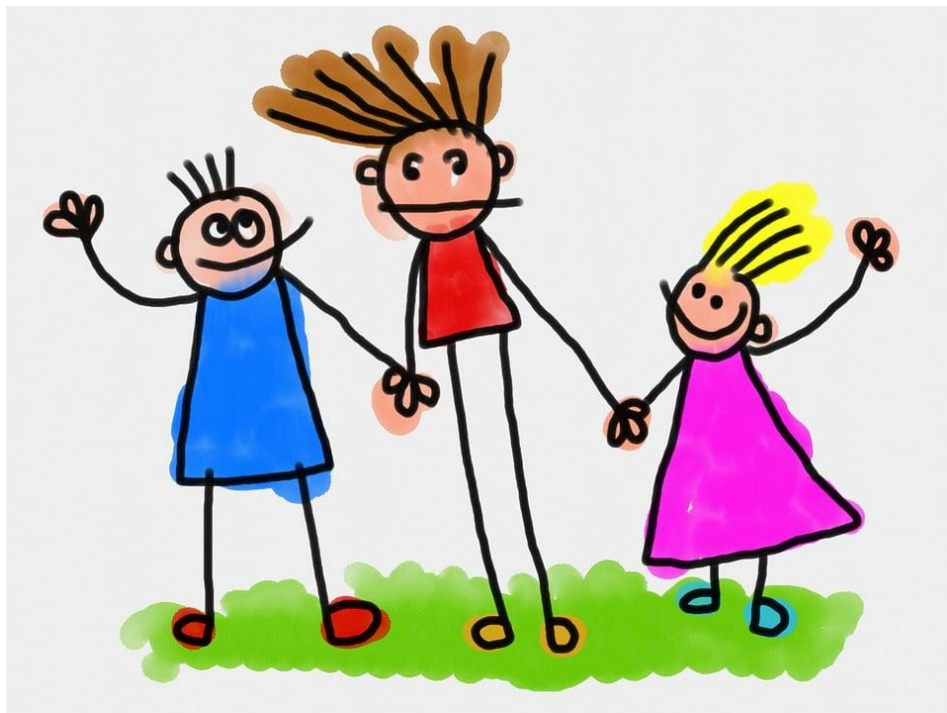
Updated 8/06/2023

Philosophy – Grow, Explore, Discover, Play!

Preschool develops skills your child will use every day for the rest of their lives. Basic needs never change but environments do and we need to adapt by **stimulating creativity, nurturing problem solving and reasoning skills, experimenting, exploring and inventing**.



At Tindal Preschool we facilitate learning, in a **safe environment**, through **play-based activities**, allowing for children to be heard and express themselves to **be their own person**. The staff aim to provide a safe and **fun environment** where children can develop **new skills** whilst having fun and **building their resilience**. The learning environment provides **challenging, flexible, inclusive and stimulating opportunities** to allow children to learn and develop through their **purposeful play** and **planned activities**.

Planning reflects **intentional and explicit teaching** whilst being responsive to the genuine **interest, strengths and needs of children and their development**. Continual evaluation of the program through **child, family, community and staff** input allows opportunities to guide **individual and cooperative investigations**. This aims to ensure every child feels **included, respected and heard**. It gives educators the opportunity to identify strengths and weaknesses/areas to improve.



Program

Our service offers a variety of different activities during each term, following on children's interests, strengths and areas that require development. Science, cooking, music, visits from locals such as Ranger Stacey, gardening, are some of the activities we have been able to enjoy together in the past. Our program at times changes, due to spontaneous events or the weather.

| Monday | Tuesday |
|--|---|
| <p>Bike day: children are encouraged to bring in a bike or scooter with their helmets. We have spare bikes and scooters if needed.</p>  | <p>Library day: children will need to bring in a library bag so they can borrow 2 books. The borrowed library books will be returned the following Tuesday.</p>  |

Focus Child

From week 3, children will each have a turn of being the 'Focus Child' for the day, as part of fulfilling the Belonging aspect of the Early Years Learning Framework. Every few months a roster will be issued outlining which days your child is scheduled as the Focus Child. The title "Focus Child" says it all – the rostered child will be the focus for the day! They will be given special jobs throughout the day, such as choosing to water the plants, feeding the fish or helping with our fruit break (all very special Preschool jobs!).

Part of their time as Focus Child is sharing News and reflecting on their learning from the day. They will have a chance to share something they have made; discovered at home; show some photos of a family outing etc. Apart from extending their language skills, News is also a chance for us to get to know your child more deeply. **We discourage them from bringing any toys for News.**

During reflections time, the Focus Child will share something they have made, learned or discovered at Preschool on their special day. This will enable educators to effectively 'tune in' to the learning explorations available at Preschool, and further extend children's learning.

Our Focus Child Roster will be placed on our parent information board, a copy emailed home and put onto Storypark.

National Quality Framework

The National Quality Framework aims to raise quality and drive continuous improvement and consistency in education and care services. The National Quality Standard is divided into seven Quality Areas:

1. Educational program and practice
2. Children's health and safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Leadership and service management.



NT Preschool Curriculum

Children attending Preschool in the Northern Territory are supported by the delivery of the NT Preschool Curriculum which, in connection with the EYLF, identifies both the practices and developmental milestones our work will build towards during the year to come. Parents can access the NT Preschool Curriculum at the following address: <https://education.nt.gov.au/support-for-teachers/nt-preschool-curriculum>

Special Events

During the school year, there are special events which we share with our Big School. You can look forward to events such as our Early Years sports carnival, Character Day dress ups, Mother's Day, Father's Day, whole school concert and Preschool Graduation. Special times during the year will accompany further notification closer to the event/s.

What to bring to Preschool

The Territory Government has allocated a \$150 voucher for each preschooler to use at the start of the year. This is used towards uniform shirts, hat and other items/future resources.

Your child is encouraged to wear a preschool shirt. Remember, your child needs to wear clothes that can get dirty and are practical for a session at Preschool.

- ★ A **good size school bag** (named) to hold their lunch box, artwork, library bag and clothing.
- ★ **Named** spare clothes in case of toileting accident, pants, tops, undies etc. *(We understand that children can still be learning to use the toilet during the day. If your child has issues with toileting, please discuss this with Educator's so your child can be supported).*
- ★ **All children** need to wear runners/joggers/trainers or closed in shoes. A broad brimmed hat, kept in bag (we have a no hat, no play policy)
- ★ A named water bottle
- ★ A named library bag
- ★ A named lunch box

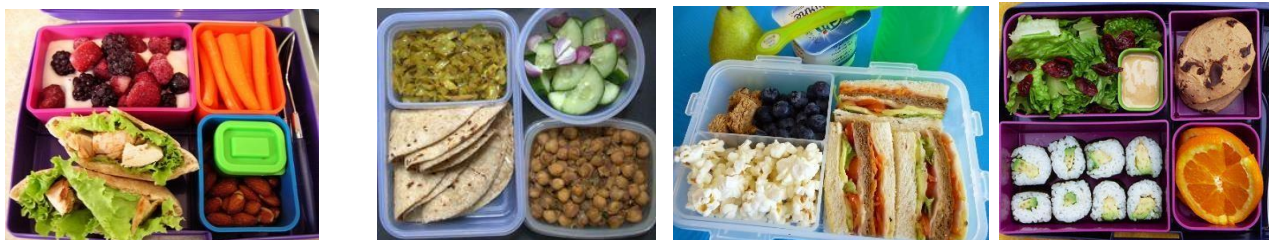
Mealtimes

Each day, the children are asked to bring their own healthy recess and lunch in a **named** lunch box and a **named** drink bottle with water in it. Lunch boxes are to be put on the kitchen bench and water bottles on the designated table. As our Policy states, the children are encouraged to bring **healthy food** in their lunch box. We discourage foods such as lollies and chocolates. These are best to keep for a treat at home or shared special occasions such as our Mother's or Father's Day afternoon teas. **(Water only in drink bottles please).**

We make our mealtimes as enjoyable as possible, understanding that all children are different and have a variety of foods they like and don't like. Educators always eat with children to encourage good eating habits through role modelling and discussions.

Fruit break is offered outside an hour before recess. We ask children to bring in a piece of fruit to share in which we ask a parent volunteer to please cut up. We have found this helps support children to fuel their bodies, allowing them to continue their play.

Here are some great lunchbox ideas. Please see us if your child has any special dietary or eating issues.



Nut Aware

Casuarina Street Preschool – Tindal Campus is a nut aware school. Please do not send foods containing any kinds of tree nuts (incl: Nutella or Peanut butter, etc.) Foods labelled “may contain traces of nuts” are acceptable.

We have a child in our service who has ANAPHYLAXIS TO NUTS.

Library and Book Club

Reading and storytelling with children in the early stages of their life, promotes brain development and imagination, develops language and emotions, and strengthens relationships. We have our own library with a variety of picture books on offer. To build on our collection, we have Book Club where we collect rewards from purchases made by family’s twice a term from catalogues sent home.

<https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/>

Drop off/pick up authority

Children need to be brought to the preschool, signed in and out, and collected at the end of the session by an authorised person **over 18 years**. The sign in book is on the bench. Preschool starts at **7:45am** and finishes at **3:15pm**. If you will be late please ring the school to let us know on 0427 331 646.

* Parents and children are to wait in the courtyard for an educator to welcome them into the centre to begin the day. Allowing educator’s adequate time to prepare for the day. *

Each child must have a complete **Authority to Collect** form filled out (provided with enrolment pack) only the adults listed on this form are able to collect your child from preschool. If you would like to make adjustments to this form please inform staff. If there is an instance where somebody not on your authority to collect form will pick your child up, please ring the preschool to inform us verbally and ask that person to have photo ID to show.

Voluntary parent contributions

Your voluntary school contributions support bus upkeep, keeping lawns maintained, phone, and resources.

Family involvement at Preschool

Our Preschool thrives on family involvement. Parents are always welcome to help us for a session and the children LOVE working with other adults and getting to know you as their friend’s parents.

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Activities can include but not limited to gardening, cooking, making playdough, being involved in play, reading books, and helping in the library. We enjoy families sharing their culture with us also.

Settling into Preschool

Attending preschool is an important and exciting stage in a child's development. They will have opportunities to interact with other children and educators, and benefit from a stimulating learning environment. Some children embrace this change with an enthusiasm that can leave parents feeling confident and comfortable, and perhaps even a little left out. Some children may feel afraid, upset or anxious. It may be the first time they have been in the care of adults who are not part of their family, or the environment could be noisy and crowded compared to being at home, making it all feel a bit too much. It is actually quite common for children to show some signs of discomfort when they first start in a new program. While this can be worrying for parents and carers, it is normal for children to find the transition to preschool upsetting and it is important to remember the distress is often short-lived. Please talk with your Preschool educators if you have any concerns.

Parent Preschool Committee

The Preschool Parent Committee is an important part of our preschool functioning successfully. We value your input and support in your child's preschool. The committee can take on all fundraising for preschool, special events and family occasions. The committee meets twice a term, dates and times to be confirmed during the term. Children are welcome to come along and play while we hold our meeting.

Parent communications with Preschool

We have an open-door policy so please feel free to call or speak to either of us in the mornings or afternoon. If you need a longer meeting please make an appointment with the teacher.



Email – Preschool newsletters, committee meeting agendas and minutes, and important information are emailed out to families. Please make sure we have your email address.



School Stream app – you can register with School Stream and download the School Stream app to your phone or device and receive newsletters and updates that concern the whole school, not just the preschool.



Storypark – when your child starts with us, you will get a link to sign up for Storypark. This is where updates are shared and it is our main form of communication.

Parent notice board

Above our lockers, we have a parent notice board with community events, newsletters or information that needs to be passed on. There is a suggestion box if families would like to give any input to preschool anonymously.

Family photo wall

Helping children feel they belong is a fundamental part of the Early Years Learning Framework and our preschool. We like to create a family wall with photos of your family and child. Please bring one to preschool in the first week to help us get this started. You may also like to email this to us and we can print it out for you.

Policies and procedures documents

These are all available for viewing on the shelf in our preschool office. You are more than welcome to view these at any time. Please ask us. They are reviewed yearly or updated when changes need to be made.

Health and sickness

- ✓ If your child has a diagnosed health condition, please make sure you have given us as much information as possible in the enrolment form and bring us copies of any Health Care plans from your GP. If your child has any dietary requirements or minor health issues, please tell us about those too. Our policies require us to develop a Health Care and Risk Minimisation Plan with you, and we will contact you to do that at the beginning of the school year.
- ✓ Please do not send your child to preschool if he or she is unwell. The problem of sickness and infectious diseases is very serious, especially when so many children are in contact with each other. If your child becomes ill at the center, staff will contact you immediately. Infection can move swiftly through a group. Therefore, we ask you or your nominee to come as quickly as possible to collect your child. In accordance with our Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy, a copy of which is available in our office or on our website, if a child has an infectious disease, they will be excluded from the centre for the minimum period stipulated by the Northern Territory Department of Health.
- ✓ Please call us if your child will be absent for sickness on 0427 331 636 as soon as possible.

Donations

Many important skills are developed by the children's use of recycled materials and therefore we need a constant supply of all sorts of 'junk' such as old cereal boxes, bottle tops, and yogurt pots. So if you have any recycled treasures please ask staff if we require more and they will be able to guide you in the right direction.

Enrolment

Age of entry

Children who turn four before the 30th June are eligible to begin Preschool at the start of the school year. The enrolment policy states that children are offered a position on an age-basis for their preschool year. For example, children turning 5 in July will be accepted first.

Children entering preschool must be toilet trained and able to manage themselves independently in the toilet.

Please make sure the Preschool has your current address, phone number and email address.

Each family and child will need to attend a preschool orientation before starting Preschool.

Orientation times will be offered the first day of teachers return to school in January and during the latter part of Term 4. Children starting during the year will be given a preschool orientation by appointment.

And Finally

During the first few weeks our time will be devoted to settling children, building relationships, establishing routines and getting to know your child. Helping children learn and grow is a rewarding experience and we strongly believe in creating a positive learning environment where children feel comfortable, safe, happy and secure. Please don't hesitate to discuss any queries or worries you may have regarding your child's education with us.

We are looking forward to our preschool adventures together.

From your Preschool Team