



# KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT INFORMATION GUIDE

Wimmera UnitingCare Early Years Services



# Introduction

Welcome to the Wimmera UnitingCare Early Years Kindergarten information booklet. You may wish to refer to it throughout the year as it contains information on the organisation and implementation of kindergarten programs.

Our kindergartens have highly qualified teachers who have a strong understanding of how important it is that children have great experiences that lead to successful learning.

We believe that all children should be given the opportunity to reach their full potential. Children are strong, creative, competent and full of curiosity. Our programs are structured to encourage exploration, investigation, observation and communication within a nurturing environment. There is a strong focus on play based learning.

All our kindergarten teachers are professionally active and keep up to date with current research and practices through professional development.

Our Kindergartens are:

Kerri Baker Kindergarten Horsham

Rainbow Kindergarten

Jeparit Kindergarten

Dimboola Kindergarten

Nhill Kindergarten

All our kindergartens are guided by the National Quality Framework.

Since January 2012, the National quality framework applies to all kindergarten services across Australia.

The services are governed by the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 and meet the National Quality Standard.



# National Quality Framework

- The National Quality Framework aims to raise quality and drive continuous improvement and consistency in education and care.
- Each kindergarten has a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) relating to the National Quality Standards that studies the strengths and areas for development for each setting. The QIP is used as a guide for continuous development.

The Kindergarten teaching and learning program is based on the National Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) – ‘Belonging, Being & Becoming’.

Learning in Kindergarten is particularly significant as it lays the foundation for all future learning. Our aim is to provide children with experiences and opportunities that encourage them to acquire skills, knowledge, attitudes and sensitivities that will allow them to make the most of their abilities. Learning in childhood largely happens through engagement with others and the physical world. When we develop the program, we consider the whole child and the inter-related nature of development and learning.

## Registering For Kindergarten

You can register your child in kindergarten at any time throughout the year. All Expressions of Interest (3yr old or 4yr old) need to be lodged to your preferred kindergarten.

Information enrolment packs are available at your local kindergarten for you to pick up or at the Wimmera UnitingCare office. The ratio in our kindergarten's are 1 staff to 11 children, this allows for smaller group interactions within our Kindergarten. Four Year old kindergarten fees are government subsidised to reduce the fees in the rural kindergarten services.

## Important Dates

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • Information Sessions Held:                   | July/August |
| • Expression of Interest due by:               | August      |
| • Confirmation of your Kindergarten placement: | September   |
| • Enrolment Forms returned and Deposit paid:   | October     |
| • Term 1 Fees due:                             | December    |
| • Term 2 Fees due:                             | March       |
| • Term 3 Fees due:                             | July        |
| • Term 4 Fees due:                             | September   |



# Important Information

## Health Care Card (Rural services only)

If you are a current Health Care card holder you must provide a copy each term to your kindergarten teacher to be eligible for a discount of your funded four year old fees (three year old fees not applicable).

## How To Pay Fees

Parents are to complete an Ezi direct debit form and return it with your enrolment form to your kindergarten.

## Entry Age For Funded Four Year Old Kindergarten Programs

To be eligible to attend a funded kindergarten program in the year before school, children must be four years old by 30 April.

## Early Start Kindergarten- Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander

Your child is eligible for Early Start Kindergarten if they are aged three by 30 April in the year they will be attending.

- Your child is Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander.
- Your family has had contact with Child Protection (or been referred by them to Child FIRST).

Early Start funding to assist with fees is available.

## Three Year Old Kindergarten

To be eligible to attend three year old Kindergarten children must turn three prior to attending by 30 April. Three-year old kinder is not funded and relies on parent fees.

## Enrolling A Child In Kindergarten

The legal guardian must complete the enrolment form providing any additional documents (court orders, medical action plans, immunisation status certificate, birth certificate).

If there are any court orders in place in relation to the child, please ensure a copy is provided to the service before the child commences.

Please note that children cannot attend more than one year funded kindergarten. For a child to access a second year funded kindergarten they need to meet the criteria set by the Department of Education and Training (DET).

If your chosen kindergarten is full you may be asked to go onto a waiting list and as soon as there is a place you will be notified.

## Visiting A Kindergarten Of Choice

Attending the information nights or making a time to meet with the kindergarten teacher to observe the educators with the children and ask questions is a wise idea.

## What To Look For When You Visit A Service

- Do the educators interact positively with children, other staff and parents?
- Do they make you and your child feel welcome?

## Immunisation Requirements

No jab, no play vaccination laws are now in effect in Victoria.

Under the 'No Jab, No Play' legislation, before enrolling a child, early childhood services must first obtain evidence that the child is:

- Fully immunised for their age OR
- On a vaccination catch-up program OR
- Unable to be fully immunised for medical reasons.

'Conscientious objection' is not an exemption under the 'No Jab No Play' legislation.

# FAQ's

## Why Are Immunisations So Important?

Immunisations not only protect those people who have been vaccinated, it also protects those in our community who may be unable to receive vaccines themselves, by reducing the prevalence and spread of disease.

## What Can I Expect?

Expect a settling in period as some children may be experiencing new feelings associated with separation and are adjusting to kindergarten. We encourage parents to stay for a short while if needed. The teacher will discuss with you ways of making the transition from the home to kindergarten as smooth as possible.

## Parent/Teacher Communication. . .

If at any time throughout the year you wish to discuss your child's progress, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with the kindergarten teacher.

## There Has Been A Change To Our Home Situation. . .

Home situations have great influence on children. Please notify the teacher of any change to the normal routine (e.g. parent in hospital).

All information is treated with the strictest confidentiality.

## What Can I Do To Support My Kindergarten?

Parents can help to support their kindergarten through having regular contact with the kindergarten teacher at an arranged time, being part of the Parents Advisory Committee and helping when the kindergarten has a working bee.

## What Will My Child Be Doing At Kindergarten?

The Kindergarten program is carefully planned by the teacher to encourage developmental growth in major areas of development.

Your child will have many new experiences and learn many new skills in a play based environment.

## What Do I Do Before My Child Starts In An Early Childhood Program?

- Visit the service and talk to the educator.
- Label all your child's belongings.
- Pack a change of clothes for your child.





# Kerri Baker Kindergarten Horsham

The Kerri Baker Kindergarten is located within the Horsham Community Childcare Centre.

The program is play based which encourages open ended, hands-on play where children are encouraged to think creatively and laterally.

Throughout the year the children will engage with the local community through excursions and incursions.

Kerri Baker kindergarten runs a program that encourages children to move between both indoor and outdoor environments. We have a variety of interesting areas to inspire children to play imaginatively.

Kerri Baker Kindergarten Horsham  
Monday to Friday, 8.30am-1.30 pm  
9 Roberts Avenue, Horsham 3400  
Phone (03) 5382 0953

\*Hours are subject to change

The outdoor space has a number of gross motor areas to encourage children to take risks and climb as well as an area for dramatic play.

At Kerri Baker families have access to additional long day care through Horsham Community Childcare Centre Monday to Friday from 8am-6pm.

Horsham Community Child Care Centre provides a nutritious, healthy menu for all meals and snacks during the time that your child is at kindergarten or in our care.

Parents are encouraged and welcome to be a part of the daily program or to join the Parent Advisory Committee who meet monthly.

## Our Kindergartens



# Rainbow & Jeparit Kindergarten

Rainbow and Jeparit Kindergartens share the kindergarten teacher; this enables a smoother transition for children to attend 3 days across the two kindergarten services.

Four year old children are eligible to access 15 hours of funded kindergarten per week across both kindergartens.

Eligible three year old children join the four year old program for three hours each week (Jeparit on Mondays and Rainbow on Wednesdays).

At our kindergarten we help each child to follow and extend

their own interests, developing self-confidence and group participation.

We encourage learning in all areas as well as social and independence skills.

We play both indoors and outdoors on most days, which help to make the children aware of our environment and surroundings and how to care for them.

We welcome future families to phone and arrange a visit for a play at both locations.

Rainbow Kindergarten  
Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8.40am-1.40pm  
46 Taverner Street, Rainbow 3424  
Phone (03) 5395 1172

Jeparit Kindergarten  
Mondays and Tuesdays, 8.50am-1.50pm  
9 Hindmarsh Street, Jeparit 3423  
Phone (03) 5397 2139

\*Opening days are subject to change



# Dimboola Kindergarten

At Dimboola Kindergarten we believe it takes a community to best nurture a child.

As a community we support children through fostering individual interests, health and wellbeing needs. This strengthens children's sense of being.

Families, the local community and schools are an integral part of children's learning and development opportunities at Dimboola Kinder. We all contribute to the program and support each other with open, genuine communication. We value the development of life skills such as confidence,

empathy and resilience. We encourage respect of self, others and our environment and work together to strengthen our relationships. This brings a sense of belonging to the group which we enjoy celebrating in a variety of ways.

Our Indigenous families share their Wegairra culture through art and storytelling. We get out and about in the local community, encouraging exposure to experiences through active participation. Educators facilitate inquiry based learning and resource imagination. This supports children to develop a sense of becoming.

Dimboola Kindergarten  
Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 8.40am-1.40pm  
27 Hindmarsh Street, Dimboola 3414  
Phone (03) 5389 1130

\*Opening days are subject to change

## Our Kindergartens



# Nhill Kindergarten

Nhill Kindergarten offers a play based curriculum.

This provides learning through which children organise and make sense of their social world. They engage actively with peers, educators and objects within a safe and stimulating environment.

Our philosophy is to ensure that every child is respected as a unique person with their own culture, interests and needs. We believe in fostering an inclusive attitude towards the diversity

of cultures, genders and abilities within our community. We actively connect with many of our community resources throughout our kindergarten year.

Nhill Kindergarten also operates a three year old program at the same venue. This program runs on Thursday morning for three hours by a Diploma Qualified Educator.

Nhill Kindergarten  
Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8.45am-1.45pm  
9 Clarence Street, Nhill 3418  
Phone (03) 5391 1504

\*Opening days are subject to change

# We are a ChildWise Child Safe Organisation

As an accredited Child Safe organisation we are committed to protecting children in our care.

We maintain a child safe environment as the main consideration in all our activities and management practices.

All staff are adequately supervised and trained to meet all Child Safe requirements and guidelines.

If you would like more information on ChildWise please visit our website: [wuc.org.au](http://wuc.org.au)





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