

Gum Nut Preschool and Childcare

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At Gum Nut Preschool and Childcare:

We respectfully acknowledge
the Traditional Owners
of this land:

The Wurundjeri, Boonwurrung,
Taungurung, Dja Dja Wurrung
and the Wathaurung people
who make up the Kulin Nation.

Week Commencing: 8/2/21

WELCOME To Term 1: 2021:

Huge warm welcome our new families and our returning families.
We look forward to our educational adventure with you all in 2021.

What a year 2020 was, it challenged us in many ways and with reflection many lessons have been learnt, new ideals formed, realisation's of what is important compared to what we have believed to be important.

Connection, communication, calm, warm, caring environments are needed by all of us, that regardless of what is happening in the wider world the value of allowing children to be children never changes. That nature has the capacity to heal and helps us heal, that we all have a role in the type of environment we want our children to thrive in, healthy, open spaces, clean air, outdoor natural environments are wonderful learning and nurturing spaces for our children to discover who they are and who they could become. Important.

Covid update & protocols.

From: Victoria State Government, Education and Training.

"It is crucial for everyone to remain vigilant-to stay home when unwell, get tested, perform regular hand hygiene, wear a mask when required and maintain physical distancing from others when practical".

ECEC providers and parents continue to have an important role to promote and ensure testing when a child or staff member has any symptoms, no matter how mild, and then stay home. Getting tested and staying home until results are known, remains crucial to limiting community transmission".

Adults/families entering Gum Nut.

We ask families to continue to use hand sanitiser on entry: if accessing indoors please wear a face mask, outdoors no need for face mask – unless you cannot socially distance. 1 person to two square metres.

"Any unwell staff and children should stay at home and get tested, however mild their symptoms".



Wominjeka

Gum Nut Calendar / Events:

February 2021.

Kinder Room:

Information Night: 10th February.

Family Day: 27th. February

Centre:

Emergency evacuation: drill 18/2/21.

Information night:

Possums, Wombats, Koalas,
Magpies.

Date:25/2/2021

Time

6pm

**Centre sausage sizzle, vegetarians
& vegans will be catered for.**

Date / Time

TBC

2021 Funded Kinder ~ Spots still available!!!

Our kindergarten program will operate at the following times: 8.30am until 4.30 pm ~ Monday to Friday.

You have the option of selecting your preferred days of attendance.

Minimum hours per week is 15 = 2 days x 7.5 hour per day. (This may change depending on federal Government).

Languages will also be in the program.

Explore & Learn

Funded Kinder - Outdoor Educational Program

Gum Nut Preschool and Childcare is offering 3 days per week (days to be advised) where our kindergarten program is based primarily in Alphington Park & Wetlands area but will also include Darebin Parklands and Sparks Reserve. Children at our kindergarten will receive a combination of kinder hours in our upstairs dedicated kinder room and rooftop playground, as well as the natural outdoor setting; combined with the larger outdoor experience of the Wetlands.

4 year old ~ Funded Kinder Fees in 2021

Victorian budget for 2021: Payments will be made to service providers delivering a funded kindergarten program, rather than directly to families.

This will enable long day-care services to reduce fees by an additional \$2,000 for families.

Further information about funding amounts, terms and conditions and how to accept the offer will be provided as soon as possible.

Introducing Gum Nut Room Leaders for 2021:

Possum Room:

Lamia:

I have a Diploma in early childhood. I am a mother of 5 beautiful children, and I have worked as an early childhood educator for over 7 years. I am creative and love to stay active and bring these passions into my early childhood teaching. I believe that the early years is an important time to nurture children's love of learning and to foster their overall wellbeing. I have Immense love for children and watching them grow mentally, socially, and physically. I believe "Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood, for it alone is the free expression of what is in a child's soul."

Term 1 goals. Setting goals and striving to meet them provides a platform to ensure all the children are feel safe, secure and supported in the possum room we do this by following each child's individual routine, ritual and building their trust.

- To ensure the safety of all of our children during all routines and activities and to be alert and attentive at all times. We constantly make certain that the outside play area as well as the indoor space is safe and secure and that we provide a healthy environment.
- To provide a warm, loving, safe, secure (home) style, and attractive environment in which children can learn and develop through play.
- To provide physical activities that support large and small muscle development through music and movement experiences and the arts
- To provide age-appropriate activities that encourage curiosity and use of the five senses.
- To support social and emotional development through positive guidance and interactions.
- To develop caring and sharing partnerships with all parents. Communication is provided through newsletters; daily report forms and daily conversations.
- To continue to grow as professionals and to be a positive role model.
- To interact with rather than react to the infants in our care.
- To develop an awareness of the wider world and our natural environment.

Wombat Room:

Rose

Hello, I have been at Gum Nut for 14 years, last year I enjoyed my long service leave and spent time supporting my daughter in the lead up to her wedding and then covid happened, I have two adult children.

Professionally I have a passion for teaching, supporting and nurturing children through their toddler years I like to get to know each child and their family, from this point I work with children's interests and implement plans to cater for their growing skills and confidence.

Our term 1 goals are for the children to settle in a safe secure and supportive environment.

For the children to form bonds with their educators, learning the routine and self-help skills.

Your Room Leaders: 2021:

**Koala Room:
Anne-Marie**

Hello, I have two children aged 11 and 15. I am currently in my final year (and a bit) of my Bachelor of Early Learning at Latrobe University. I have been working at Gum Nut for 6 years and I have been very fortunate to work with each age group at the centre.

In this time, I have learnt a great deal from the children and my fellow educators.

I am very passionate about education and working with children and their families. Relationship building is very important to me and I have a strong interest in child development, inclusion, social justice and psychology.

Koala Room Goals

The beginning of Term 1: in the Koala Room is a time of great change for many of our children. We are aware and acknowledge that the transition from the Wombat Room to the Koala Room is a big one.

Koala educators will spend this term building bonds with the children and helping them settle in their new environment. We want the children to feel like they belong in the Koala Room, that the space is theirs.

We will guide the children building relationships with each other through play and experiences and will encourage independence through the development of self-help skills.

Our program will be guided by the children's interests and needs.

**Magpie Room:
Michelle**

I have been at Gum Nut Preschool and Childcare for approximately 15 years.

My experience at Gum Nut has been across all age groups, I do enjoy the toddler to kinder years, being involved in emerging conversations and interests, encouraging children to learn and develop new skills, interests and parts of themselves never gets old, each child is seeing something or learning something new about themselves.

I believe every child has the right to learn, explore, be a child and be happy.

The goals for term 1 in the Magpie room is for the children:

To settle in their new environment

Develop a sense of belonging, to

Establish a sense of awareness of community.

Build relationships with each other and educators.

To focus on their own wellbeing and emotional regulation.

Your Room Leaders: 2021:

**Kinder Room:
Jacinta**

Hi everyone, I am extremely happy to be one of the kindergarten teachers at Gum Nut Preschool and Childcare this year. I graduated with my Bachelor of Education (Early Years) and began working in the Gum Nut Kinder Room in 2017. I am extremely passionate about teaching in a classroom that is ultimately led by the children's interests, making learning fun and meaningful for each individual child.

I love incorporating, singing, music, cooking and writing into many aspects of the curriculum. I am extremely passionate about our Explore and Learn Program, and supporting children to become confident, capable risk-takers who can happily and confidently engage with the world around them.

I am also passionate about creating an inclusive and anti-bias curriculum. I understand and appreciate that each child comes to kinder with unique needs, cultures, interests, and attitudes towards learning. My goal is to take these aspects into consideration in order to meet each child's individual needs. I look forward to getting to know all children and families in the coming weeks.

TERM 1 – KINDER ROOM

Term 1 is well and truly filling up with plenty of fun activities and experiences for the children, as the program evolves and takes shape. Teachers are spending time getting to know the children, settling them into the program and looking toward setting the children up to begin explore & learn in a couple of weeks.

We have some exciting excursions/incursions planned for our kinder children and are extremely excited for the term ahead. We look forward to continuing getting to know the children, as well as families/guardians in the coming weeks.

Reminder: Kinder Information Night Wednesday February 10th in the Gum Nut Kinder room.

Next edition of our news sheet will include a bio from all of our educators & photos.

How to be involved at Gum Nut:

*We treasure the moments families can give to be involved at the centre.
List of suggestions and if you have others please add or let us know:*

Stories: come and read a favourite story or two.

Music: instruments, songs,

Art: perhaps an art project; painting, drawing,

Drama: imaginative play, write a play with a group

Dance: expressive dance, tap dancing etc

Craft: sewing, beading, loads of options

Sport: activities on oval or within the centre

Exercises: stretching, body balance

Yoga: weekly or fortnightly session

Share funny stories or share what you do: write a story with a group of children.

Gardening: set up a herb garden, help with vegie patches

Form a group to meet and connect

Monthly gathering or term gathering:

Cooking: come and make or cook a favourite dish/recipe

Mentor: do you have relevant early education skills to mentor our trainees

Volunteer: In a room for a day or half day:

Construction: build a bird feeder or other with a group of children:

Nature Education or environmental sustainability.

Animal education or be involved in our fundraising.

You are welcome to work with staff, assist with incursions, excursions or attend explore and learn, there are endless possibilities, come and chat or speak with room leaders.

Reminders:

1: *Centre operating hours are from 7.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday.*

2: Hats, sun hats for your children.

3: Keep all your information up to date:

- email address,
- residential address,
- work name & address,
- phone numbers,
- your preferred additional contacts e.g. grandparents etc all up to date.

4: Fee centre payment methods:

Gum Nut processes many family's fees fortnightly by credit card, every second Tuesday or your preferred day.

EFT: request centre bank details
or
pay in the office by eftpos or cash.

Statements are emailed fortnightly after our credit card run.

5: Collection of children:

If occasion arises that you require a new family member or friend to collect your child, please inform the office, provide this person's full name, address and phone no., this is essential if they are not on your contact list or ticked for collection, ID must be provided, if this is not provided, we will not release a child to this person.