



Centre opening hours.
7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

office@gumnutpreschool.com.au

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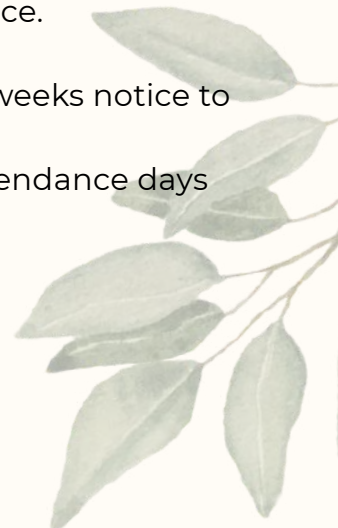


We respectfully acknowledge
the Traditional Owners
of the land where we learn
and play, the Wurundjeri
people of the Kulin Nation.
We pay respect to their
Elders past, present and
emerging.



Reminders

- **Parent Mobile Phones:** Please be reminded that we request that all mobile phones are put away when entering the gate and that no photos are to be taken inside.
- **Centre Information Folders:** All centre information is now placed in folders at the main entrances for your reference. These will be kept at the sign-in table and at the information area near the office. These folders include relevant information on the centre, including opening hours, contact details of the regulatory authority, policies and procedures, etc.
- **Signing in and Out:** It is a legal requirement that parents/guardians sign their children in and out each day. If you do not have a pin please notify the office.
- **Holiday Notification:** We require two full weeks notice to discount your fee for your holiday period. Child must be away for the full week of attendance days (Monday-Friday).



WHATS HAPPENING

Term 2 Calendar

April

20th Term 2 starts
22nd International Mother Earth Day
25th ANZAC Day

May

10th Mothers Day
11th - 17th National Families Week
15th Endangered Species Day
20th World Bee Day
27th National Sorry Day / Reconciliation week begins / National Simultaneous Storytime

June

1st Reconciliation Day
5th World Environment Day
8th World Oceans Day / King's Birthday Public Holiday **(Centre Closed)**
11th International Day of Play
15th-22nd Water Safety Week
22nd Term 2 Ends

OUR KITCHEN

BASIC DAMPER



Ingredients

- 3 cups Woolworths Essentials Self Raising Flour
- 1/2 tsp salt, optional
- 3 tbsp butter
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup water

Method

- Preheat oven to 200°C.
- Sift flour and salt into a bowl, rub in butter until mixture resembles fine crumbs.
- Make a well in the centre, add the combined milk and water, mix lightly with a knife until dough leaves sides of bowl.
- Gently knead on a lightly floured surface and then shape into a round, put on a greased oven tray. Pat into a round 15-16cm diameter.
- With sharp knife, cut two slits across dough like a cross, approximately 1cm deep.
- Brush top of dough with milk. Sift a little extra flour over dough
- Bake for 10 minutes, or until golden brown.
- Reduce heat to 170°C. and bake another 20 minutes.

Does your family have a favorite recipe, dish, or weekly staple you could share with us? It may even be included in our next newsletter!





2027

FUNDED KINDER ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN!

3 & 4 YEAR OLD PROGRAMS

If you would like to join our Funded kinder programs in 2027, please contact Jess or Tiffany to register.

office@gumnutpreschool.com.au



FOCUS ARTICLE

UNDERSTANDING PLAY-BASED LEARNING: WHY PLAY MATTERS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

When we think about learning, we often picture children sitting at tables, completing worksheets, or practising letters and numbers. However, in early childhood education, some of the most important learning happens through something children naturally love to do, play!

Play-based learning is an educational approach that uses play as the foundation for children's learning and development. It is a purposeful and intentional way of teaching where educators create engaging experiences that support children's curiosity, creativity, and exploration.

Play-based learning does not mean children are "just playing." Instead, educators carefully plan environments, materials, and experiences that encourage children to develop important skills while following their interests and ideas.

For example, when children build a tower with blocks, they are exploring mathematical concepts such as balance, size, and measurement. When they engage in pretend play, they develop language, social skills, problem-solving abilities, and emotional understanding.

Why Is Play So Important?

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn through hands-on experiences. Play allows them to experiment, ask questions, solve problems, and develop confidence in their abilities.

- Key Benefits of Play-Based Learning
- Supports Thinking and Learning
- Through activities such as building, exploring, and problem-solving, children develop early literacy, numeracy, critical thinking, and creativity skills.
- Builds Social and Communication Skills
- Play helps children learn to cooperate, share, negotiate, and communicate with others. These experiences support positive relationships and language development.
- Promotes Emotional Wellbeing
- Play allows children to express emotions, build resilience, develop independence, and gain confidence as they overcome challenges.
- Encourages Physical Development. Active play strengthens both gross motor skills, such as running and climbing, and fine motor skills needed for tasks like drawing, writing, and self-care.



What Does Play-Based Learning Look Like?

In an early childhood setting, play-based learning may include:

- Building and construction activities
- Outdoor and nature play
- Dramatic and imaginative play
- Art and creative experiences
- Sensory exploration
- Music and movement
- Storytelling and literacy experiences



Educators support children's learning by observing their interests, asking questions, and extending their ideas through meaningful interactions.

Families can encourage learning through play by reading together, exploring outdoors, playing games, creating with open-ended materials, and allowing time for unstructured play.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2026

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

ALL IN

FOR RECONCILIATION



#NRW2026

RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU



25 YEARS OF RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA



All in for Reconciliation - 4 year old Kinder room

Our Community



DPV
Health®

Your Healthcare
Your Way

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES



Ways You Can Support Your Child's Language Development at Home

Interact and talk with your child

- **Take turns when talking.** Pause/ wait to give your child time to respond. Even if your child's response is short or not clear, encourage them to take a turn in any way they can.
- **Play turn-taking games.** Play ball games, take turns with toys or play board games. This can help children learn to wait, share and communicate.
- **Read books together.** Look at the pictures and talk about what is happening. Ask questions such as "What do you think will happen next?"
- **Follow your child's interests.** Read books and play games that they choose and enjoy.
- **Repeat the same activities.** Practicing again and again can be helpful for learning.



Model language

- **Talk about what your child is noticing or doing.** Comment on what they are looking at, playing with or interested in.
- **Expand on what your child says.** Repeat their words and add a little more. For example:
Child: "That dog run!" Adult: "Yes, the dog is running to catch the ball".
- **Model language without correcting.** Show your child how the sentence should sound. For example:
Child: "Me goed to the shops" Adult: "Yes, you went to the shops with Dad".



Build vocabulary during daily routines

- **Chat to your child during daily routines** (cooking, bathing, driving). For example:
"This pasta sauce is so hot it's bubbling". "We need to dry between your toes".
- **Talk during play.** Join in with your child's play and talk about what you and your child are doing. This helps children learn new words and ideas. For example: "We are building a tower! Up, up, up".
- **Point out new words and talk about what they mean.** For example: "This tower is enormous! Enormous means really big."
- **Watch screens together.** Talk about what you are watching. You might talk about the characters, how they are feeling and what they are doing.

This handout is intended as general information and is not specific health advice. Please consult the relevant educator, specialist or health professional around individual and specific matters.

School Readiness Funding



RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Ways You Can Support Your Child's Language Development at Home

Seek support early if you're unsure

If you have any concerns about your child's communication, seeking support early can make a big difference. A speech pathologist can help. Your child's kindergarten teacher can support you to complete a referral if needed.



Speech Pathology Australia: [Communication Milestones](#)



Speech Pathology Australia: [Fact sheets](#)



Supporting children's language development at home:

- The Hanen Centre: have tip sheets and information about supporting your child's language development at home. <https://www.hanen.org>



- Have Fun handout: <https://www.hanen.org/information-tips/have-fun-an-essential-ingredient-for-children>



- Five tips to help your child's language development (Surrey County Council): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qzkjwHgHKA>



- Raising Children Network: [Preschooler talking, listening and communication](#)



St Anthony's Primary Alphington



**2026 Open Mornings
9.30am - 10.30am**

- TUE 3 FEBRUARY
- MON 27 APRIL
- TUE 21 JULY
- WED 4 MARCH
- TUE 12 MAY
- WED 12 AUG
- MON 23 MARCH
- THUR 4 JUNE

Or book a personal tour with the Principal via our website

ALL WELCOME



A SCHOOL FOR EVERY STUDENT

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