

PROGRAM BOOKLET

MAGPIE ROOM



GUM NUT
PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE



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.



Welcome to **MAGPIE ROOM**

Welcome to the Magpie Room, where learning and play come together to nurture the growth and development of your child. Our 3-year-old program is designed to create a supportive and stimulating environment, fostering a love for learning through play-based experiences. Here's a detailed overview of our on-site program, highlighting our focus on foundational skills, socialisation, and the holistic development of your little one. We also include our unique off-site component aimed at preparing children for the exciting adventures in our 4-year-old bush kinder program.



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On-site Program

Building upon the foundations laid in the Koala Room, our program seamlessly integrates play-based learning with the introduction of structured routines. Emphasising a harmonious balance between spontaneity and organisation, we aim to create an environment that nurtures curiosity while instilling the benefits of predictability and order. This phase reflects our commitment to a well-rounded educational experience, fostering both joyous exploration and the development of essential skills for future success.

EYLF-Informed Curriculum

Our planning process is deeply reflective of the EYLF, incorporating the five essential elements of identity, community, learning, communication, and well-being. These elements guide our educators in creating a balanced and comprehensive curriculum that addresses the holistic development of each child.

Play-Based Learning

Our curriculum is centred on play-based activities that promote creativity, curiosity, and exploration. Through various play experiences, children develop fine motor skills, language, and cognitive abilities.

What is Play-Based Learning?

Play-based learning involves activities that are child-directed, allowing them to explore, experiment, and discover at their own pace. It includes both structured and unstructured play, incorporating elements like imaginative play, sensory experiences, and problem-solving.

The Importance of Play-Based Learning:

- *Cognitive Development:*
Play stimulates brain development, enhancing memory, language skills, and cognitive abilities.
- *Social and Emotional Growth:*
Through play, children learn to share, cooperate, and navigate social relationships, fostering emotional intelligence.
- *Motor Skills:*
Activities like stacking blocks or crawling contribute to the development of fine and gross motor skills.
- *Curiosity and Creativity:*
Play encourages curiosity, imagination, and creativity, laying the foundation for a love of learning.

Social and Emotional Development

We emphasise the importance of building positive relationships with peers, sharing, and expressing emotions. Our dedicated educators support children in developing a strong sense of identity and belonging.

Language and Literacy

We focus on nurturing a love for books through engaging story-time and rhyming activities. Play-based learning introduces basic vocabulary and early literacy skills like recognising their names.

Art and Creativity

Our approach involves hands-on arts and crafts to enhance imagination and self-expression. Children explore various materials, promoting fine motor skill development and fostering creativity. Together, these activities provide a holistic foundation for well-rounded early childhood development.

Outdoor Play

We have a big emphasis on immersive nature play, designed to connect children with their surroundings through activities like nature walks, sensory exploration, and gardening.

Culture, Celebrations and Festivals

Throughout the year, we celebrate various cultural events and festivals, promoting diversity and cultural awareness.

Enrichment Through Incursions

To further enrich and extend the children's interests, we regularly incorporate incursions into our program. These experiences, led by external experts or educators with specialised knowledge, provide hands-on opportunities for the children to delve deeper into subjects that capture their curiosity.

Individual Observation Planning Records

Every child's unique developmental journey is meticulously recorded through Individual Observation Planning Records. These records serve as a valuable tool for our educators to track each child's progress, tailor activities to their specific needs, and ensure a personalised approach to learning.

Goals of the On-Site Program

- *Foundational Skills:* Lay the groundwork for cognitive development through play-based learning and exploration of basic concepts.
- *Socialisation:* Foster a sense of belonging, community, and cooperation through group activities and free play.
- *Emotional Development:* Provide a supportive environment for children to express and manage their emotions, building emotional intelligence.
- *Physical Development:* Develop both fine and gross motor skills through a variety of activities, both indoors and outdoors.

Off-site Program

Preceding the initiation of the off-site program, children will undergo preliminary education on road safety. This educational component will encompass instructing children to comprehend and adhere to straightforward instructions while navigating the surrounding streets. To ensure a secure learning environment, the initial routes undertaken during the program will avoid busy thoroughfares, opting instead for inner housing roads. This strategic choice aims to prioritise safety and foster the gradual development of the children's confidence and skills.

The commencement of the program is contingent upon the children's preparedness. Initially, the program will be implemented once a week and will incrementally progress to include additional days. The maximum frequency will be set at three times a week, ensuring a measured and progressive approach to the program's expansion.

Walking Adventures:

- **Phase 1 - Around the Centre:** Supervised walks around the preschool, introducing children to the concept of walking in a group.
- **Phase 2 - Down the Street and Back:** Gradual extension of walking distance to build stamina and familiarise children with the surrounding streets.
- **Phase 3 - Circle Walk:** Walking down the street, making a circle, and returning to the centre, promoting directional understanding.
- **Phase 4 - Alphington Park's Playground:** Guided walks to Alphington Park's playground, fostering independence and reinforcing road safety principles.

Goals of the Off-Site Program:

- **Building Resilience:** Through exposure to new environments and challenges, children will develop resilience and adaptability.
- **Following Simple Instructions:** Practicing basic instructions during walks and excursions will enhance the children's ability to follow directions.
- **Understanding Road Safety:** Introduction to road safety principles in a controlled environment, promoting awareness and safety consciousness.
- **Physical Stamina:** Gradual increases in walking distances and outdoor activities aim to build physical stamina in preparation for more extended adventures.

Things your child will need to participate in the program based on weather condition:

Weather Condition	Warm/Hot	Cold/Wet
Recommended Clothing and Footwear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Light, loose fitting long sleeved top (T-shirts are also acceptable) - Short or long pants. - Sun smart broad-brimmed red Kinder Hat (to stay at Gum Nut) - Closed toe shoes. - Sunscreen has been applied to all exposed skin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waterproof jacket raincoat (can be kept at Gum Nut) - Long pants - Long sleeved top - Beanie - Waterproof gloves - Warm socks - Tall Gumboots (can be kept at Gum Nut) - Thermals are recommended in very cold weather.
Not Acceptable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open-toed shoes - Sandals - Thongs - Crocs - Singlet tops - Sleeveless dresses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-waterproof outer clothing
Other Required Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Labelled water bottle, must be taken home each day & washed. - A carry bag (supplied by Gum Nut) - A change of clothes in their bag EVERYDAY (underwear, socks, top and bottoms) - A wet bag 	

Off-site Sessions Guidelines:

Flexible Timing

- No pre-set times; flexibility based on the day's events.
- Offsite departure anytime from 8.45 am, returning by 3.30 pm.

Weather and Sun Smart Policy

- Gum Nut's policy applies; ensure children are appropriately dressed for weather conditions.
- Be prepared for extended outdoor activities.

Teacher Accompaniment

- 2-3 teachers will always accompany children during park sessions.

Well-Resourced Program

- Abundant resources provided, including music, literacy, numeracy, and art activities even outdoors.

Restricted Personal Items

- No home toys or valuables from children allowed during Explore and Learn programs.

Parent Participation

- Parents are always welcome to join Explore and Learn. Please let the teachers know in advance.

Meet The Team



Meisa

Room Leader

Hey there! I'm Meisa, the room leader and one of the teachers for the Magpie Room, and I'm all about making learning a fun and wonderful experience! Armed with a Graduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education and a solid background and experience in teaching, my goal is to provide children with a rich environment where they feel safe to explore, initiate learning, and express themselves freely.

I firmly believe in the power of play-based learning, emphasising holistic development and social-emotional skills. All children explore and learn at their own pace and have unique interests. In the Magpie Room, we're not only exploring literacy and numeracy, but we are also building a supportive community where every child feels valued.

I have a solid commitment to inclusivity. Our room celebrates diversity, and I'm dedicated to fostering an environment where each child's unique qualities are appreciated. Collaboration is crucial – with families and teachers/educators – ensuring a well-rounded support system for our little ones. I see each child as a unique individual with a great capacity to learn and able to make positive contributions to those around them.

Beyond being a teacher, I see myself as a guide, navigating the journey of discovery and growth alongside each child. I seek to form close relationships with each child under my care and their families. With a passion for early childhood education, I'm excited to contribute to the professional and personal development of our young learners in the Magpie Room.



Michelle

Assistant Room Leader

Hi, my name is Michelle, and I am a dedicated professional with an Advanced Diploma in Children Services. I bring nearly 18 years of experience to Gum Nut, where I have had the privilege of working across all age groups and currently serve as the assistant room leader of the Magpie Room.

In my role within the Magpie Room, I play a crucial part in supporting my team to deliver a high-quality educational program for children as they embark on their 3-year-old kindergarten journey. I firmly believe in upholding the inherent right of every child to learn and develop while expressing themselves through play.

My commitment to acting in the best interests of the children is unwavering. I prioritise building strong and meaningful relationships with both the children and their families. As a passionate educator, I am dedicated to providing enriching experiences that are not only enjoyable but also contribute to the development of foundational skills in the children under my care.



Mariella

Educator

Hello, I am Mariella, an experienced professional with a four-year tenure at Gum Nut and a Certification III qualification. My primary passion lies in fostering the cognitive growth of young learners through the medium of art, while maintaining a keen focus on cultivating a supportive and engaging educational environment.

My commitment revolves around instilling a sense of curiosity and a genuine love for learning in each child under my care. I firmly believe in the profound impact of listening to children's voices and respecting their choices. Witnessing children explore and develop their own ideas is not only fascinating but also forms the cornerstone of my teaching philosophy.

Furthermore, I am an advocate for the belief that children possess the ability to learn from their mistakes, recognizing that this is often the breeding ground for some of the most profound and innovative ideas. My approach involves creating a space where mistakes are valued as opportunities for growth and development.

I am dedicated to contributing positively to the educational journey of young minds, and I am eager to continue leveraging my expertise to create an enriching and empowering learning experience for all.

Our Routine

Our routine is very flexible, as it is based around each child's individual routines and rituals.

- 7:30 am Family Grouping commences in the Wombat Room (Breakfast served until 8:00 am)
- 8:45 am Proceed to Magpie Room from family grouping
- 9:00 am Acknowledgement of Country & Group Time
- 09:30 am Morning Tea and commencement of Learning Activities & Experiences
- 10:30 am Outdoor Play
- 11:30 am Progressive Lunch
- 01:00 pm Rest Time
- 01:15 pm Afternoon Group Time
- 01:45 pm Indoor Activities Resume
- 03:00 pm Afternoon tea
- 03:30 pm Outdoor Play
- 04:30 pm Family Grouping
- 06:00 pm Centre Closes.



General Housekeeping

SIGN IN AND OUT

Please remember to sign your child in and out each day (via iPad)

CLOTHING

Ensure your child is dressed appropriately for exploration; spare clothes for messy play or accidents.

FOOTWEAR

Closed footwear or sandals that cover toes preferred; avoid flip flops or crocs for safety during outdoor activities.

MEALS

Morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea provided by Gum Nut.

ALLERGIES

Bring a treat box if your child has allergies. All medications must be left at Gum Nut with an action plan from a doctor.

HATS

Bulk order of hats for each child; labeled and kept at Magpie Room. Hats are not to go home; always keep them in your child's hat pocket.

SUNSCREEN

Magpie will supply unless allergies require you to provide your own. Apply sunscreen on arrival daily.

DRINK BOTTLES

Labeled bottles brought daily, taken home to wash; at least 600ml.

LOST PROPERTY

Please check our lost property tub regularly. Unlabelled items in the tub will be donated to a charity bin at the end of each month.

COMFORT ITEMS

We recognise and value the importance of providing a sense of comfort to children at Gum Nut. As such, children are welcome to bring personal items such as soft toys or blankets. Once acclimated to their environment, these personal items will be securely stored in their child's bag until the end of the day.

HOME TOYS

In addition to comfort items, we strongly discourage home toys be brought to Gum Nut. While we understand the significance of comfort items from home, it is essential to emphasise that our program is meticulously designed to offer a rich and engaging experience for all children. To enhance your child's participation, we strive to minimise potential distractions. It

is important to note that our dedicated educators cannot assume responsibility for any lost or damaged personal items. We sincerely appreciate your understanding and cooperation in creating an environment conducive to optimal learning for all.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

We communicate weekly updates on your child's activities and upcoming plans through our private Facebook group. Additionally, room and center events will be shared via both Facebook and email. For daily activities, a dedicated board in the room will keep you informed.

EMAILS:

Please check this often and keep us informed of email changes. Magpie email address is for planning purposes only, any other information (e.g. change of days, illnesses etc must be emailed to Office)

Magpie Email: magpieroom_gumnut@outlook.com (for program communication only)

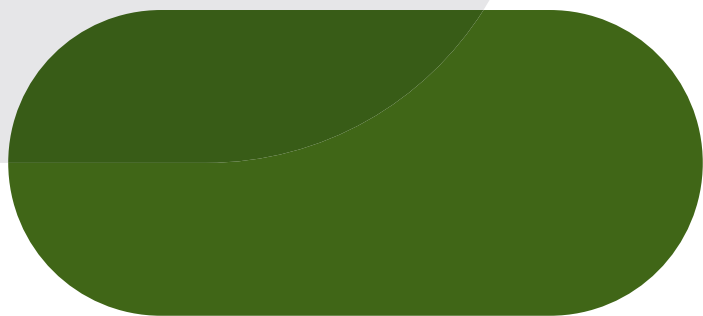
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Available in the office and some on the parent portal for reference.

Contact Details

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