

Within the Kindergarten's play based curriculum how is the development of early learning, particularly within the literacy and numeracy domains, supported? (you could provide examples of specific activities)

Children learn best through fun, play based hands on exploration. Children communicate during play, think during play, move while playing, feel during play, and organise themselves while playing. The Hub educators build relationships to support the children to learn within the context.

The use of open-ended materials helps support numeracy, literacy and science by integrating these experiences into the context of play. They are explored through storytelling, songs, props, role modeling and artwork. Using a range of drawing, pasting and construction experiences are also key ingredients which promote children's oral language, literacy, numeracy and science.

What does the Kindergarten program look like in regards to routine/s and flexibility?

We have an informal start and end to our sessions which allows families to gain a better understanding of what their children are doing. This also creates opportunities for discussion with children and gives families a better understanding of how their child is developing within the group setting.

We begin terms 1 and 4 in our outside learning space before transitioning inside for more play based learning, where we end the session. Terms 2 and 3 we begin their learning inside before transitioning outside where we end the session in our outdoor learning space.

We have one transition time in the middle of the session with a group time. Group times are where the children come together - we read stories, sing songs, share ideas, engage in explicit instructions and have a chat. By having less transitions, children are given enough time to plan and carry out their play.

What type of excursions/incursions are included and how are these experiences linked to the Kindergarten program?

During the 3 hour 3-year-old kindergarten program, we participate in the Smiles 4 Miles Program which includes an incursion visit by the local hospital Dental Clinic. This incursion provides an introduction to Eat Well, Drink Well, and Clean Well concepts, which works in with our program as we have progressive snack times.

How does this Kindergarten support the needs of children who are experiencing difficulty separating from their parent and/or the additional needs of children?

Having an informal start to the session allows a flexible approach for individual families experiencing difficulties separating. We work with the families to implement a plan that works for them. We use visual supports (showing what is happening for the day) to help create a sense of predictability for the child.

We understand that each child has their own individual unique skills and we value these differences and strive to support each child's potential and development as active learners. We work in collaboration with families and allied health professionals to support children with additional needs.