

# 2024 Kindergarten Information

Macedon Ranges Shire Council  
Early Years



## Welcome and acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge that Macedon Ranges Shire Council is located on the lands and waterways of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways.

I recognise their living cultures and ongoing connection to Country and pay my respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

## Welcome and acknowledgement continued

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is a child safe organisation. Council understands that child safety is everyone's responsibility and prides itself on being a child safe organisation with zero tolerance for child abuse.

This means creating environments where all children and young people are heard, valued and protected from harm and abuse.

# Governance

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is the Early Years Manager for the 8 kindergartens in the Shire. All of these services are licensed under the Department of Education and Training, and are required to comply to the following :

- Education and Care Services Regulations and Act
- Victorian Early Years Learning & Development Framework (VEYLDF)
- National Quality Standards



1/2016

\*Source: Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework  
State Gov. of Victoria

# 3 year old funded Kindergarten

- In 2024, 3 year old kindergarten is funded for 7.5 or 15 hours per week for eligible children
  - this can be in kindergarten or child care not both
- There is no option for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of funded 3 year old kindergarten.



# 4 year old funded Kindergarten

- 4 year old kindergarten is funded for 15 hours per week for eligible children
  - this can be in kindergarten or child care not both
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 4 year old kindergarten cannot be assumed - there is strict criteria to be met before a 2<sup>nd</sup> year can be approved.

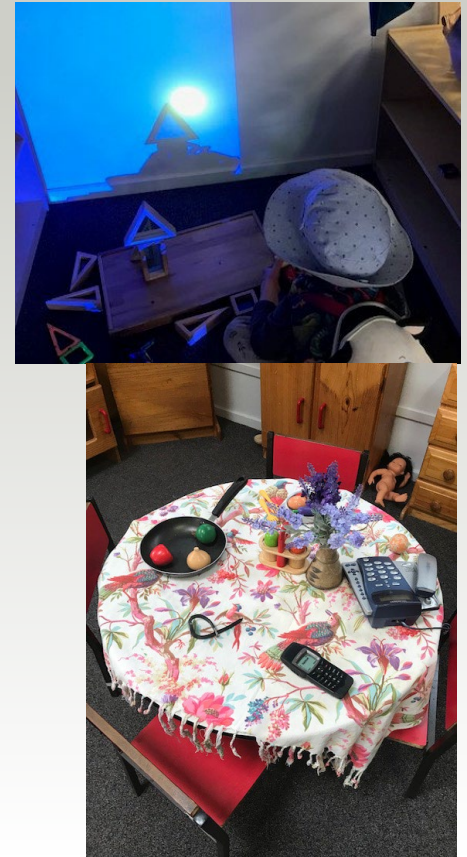


# Readiness for Kindergarten

There are many factors that indicate readiness for kindergarten for both 3 and 4 year olds:

- The child's emotional resilience
- Physical stamina
- Social skills
- Readiness can even be influenced by the child's place in the family or birth month
- It can depend on the child and their family
- It is not helpful to compare your child to others
- All children develop at their own pace

If you have any concerns about your child's readiness for kindergarten please speak with your child's Teacher or Regional Team Leaders.



# Kindergarten fees

Fees for kindergarten are free in 2024.

This applies to 4 and 3 year old children

**FREE !!**

# What is Kindergarten?

- It is a place for children to play, learn, develop skills and form positive relationships.
- A place to share experiences, activities with other children and adults.
- A place where parents and teachers share the responsibility of promoting sound, positive development and learning in children.
- It is a place to have fun and for children to be themselves!



# What will children learn at kindergarten?



- Social skills: how to relate to others, be around others, negotiate with others.
- Emotional resilience, self awareness and regulation.
- Physical confidence with small and large muscles.
- Communication: verbal and non verbal.
- Language: receptive, expressive, pre-reading and writing awareness.
- Cognitive development: thinking, hypothesizing, problem solving.
- Exploring concepts of: numeracy, science, construction, drama, art and imagination... all through play!



# How will I know what's going on?

- Storypark [online communication program]
- The program book or displays in the service
- Informal chats with Teachers and Educators
- Making a time to talk with the educators
- Ask your child about their day
- Become involved in the program
- We encourage you to participate in surveys
- If you want any information please ask



# What your child should bring?

- A drink bottle of water
- Their snacks and lunch in a container that is easy for them to manage



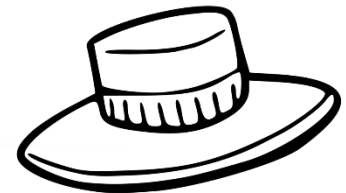
Your kindergarten will give you more information on food to provide and foods that may not be bought in due to allergies.

We promote healthy eating and healthy choices.

Please name all items and check that your child can open them... they love to be independent.

# What to bring

- Easy wear, easy care [Sunsmart] clothes and shoes that your child can manage. A change of clothes is important... just in case!
- A sun hat
- A coat - we play outside whatever the weather!
- A bag large enough to fit the lunch box, coat, drink bottle and art work
- Personalised sunscreen [if required for allergies]
- Please put your child's NAME on EVERYTHING !



# How to help at home

## Developing independence

- In managing toileting skills
- Able to dress themselves and manage their own shoes
- Opening a lunchbox with feeding themselves
- Packing up their toys
- Looking after their own things



At kindergarten children apply their own sunscreen.



# Your obligations as a parent

- Keep your child home if they are unwell (gastro), or have a cold or infectious condition.
- Ensure you pick up your child on time.
- Notify your Teacher by phone, or update your enrolment form if another person is picking up your child.
- It is important that you notify the teacher of any changes to you or your child's details, phone numbers and contact details.
- Parents should be aware, that if for certain circumstances, we occasionally have to cancel a session. It is advised to have alternative arrangements in place.

**It is your responsibility to adhere to the Kindergarten policies and procedures.**

# Information we need....

- Enrolment forms with up to date information.

All areas to be completed and signed before your child can begin.

- Immunisations up to date. Provide an Immunisation History Statement

**Your child will not be able to start until their immunisation is up to date .**

- Please provide staff with as much information about your child as you can and continue to update throughout the year.

# Your Kindergarten community

- Your kindergarten has a parent group that may organise social get togethers.
- It is a great way to meet other families in your local community.
- If you want to volunteer in the kindergarten on an ongoing basis to help out on an excursion you are required to have a volunteer working with children card and register as a Council volunteer.

# A smooth start



## **Starting 2024**

Virtual tours are available on the MRSC website . This is good opportunity for your child to become familiar with the Kindergarten.

Your child will receive a welcome card in the mail during January with names of their teachers and information about their kindergarten.

The “Welcome to Kindergarten ” is the first session of kindergarten. This is a session with half the group. You will meet your child’s educators on this day. Full sessions start week commencing 5 February 2024.

Options for settling in can be flexible and should be based on your child’s needs.

Picking up your child on time is important.

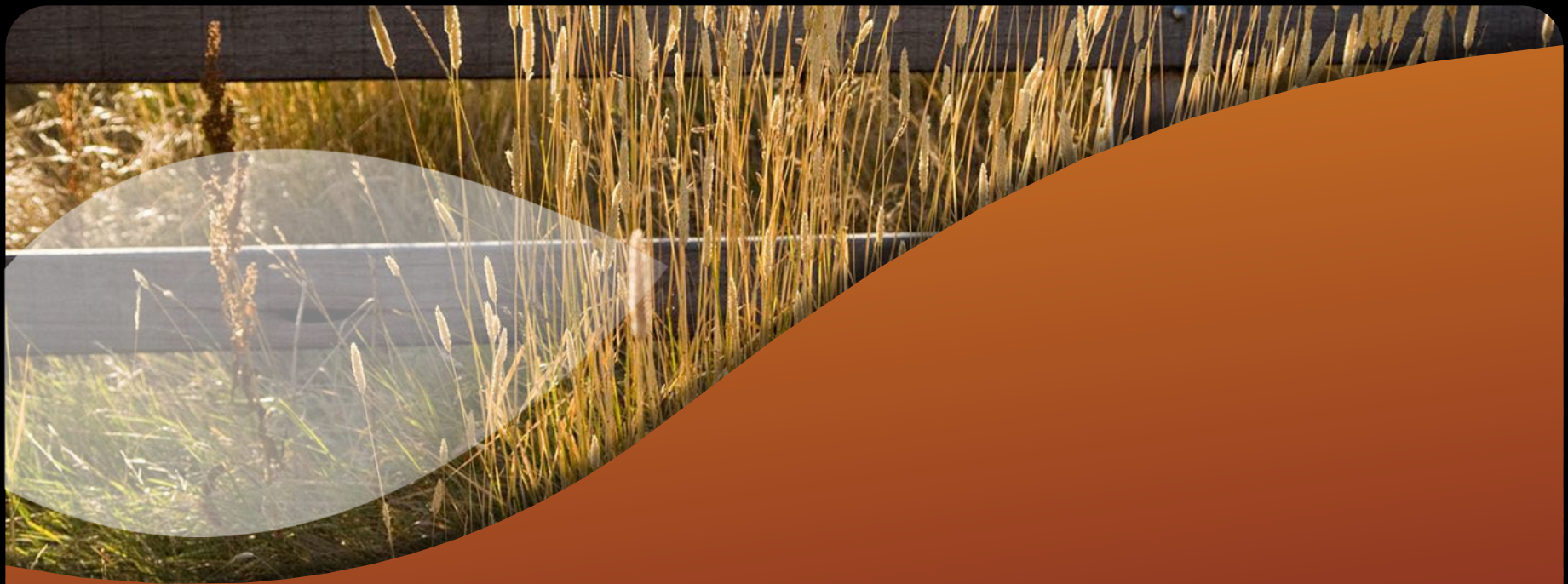
A parent information booklet is available on the website.

# Further information can be found ..

[www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/parents/kindergarten](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/parents/kindergarten)

[www.acecqa.gov.au/families](http://www.acecqa.gov.au/families)

[www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/factsheets/no-jab-no-play-frequently-asked-questions](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/factsheets/no-jab-no-play-frequently-asked-questions)



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