

Curriculum

At our centre, we follow the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), *Being, Becoming, Belonging* V.2 for children aged 0-6 years, and *My Time, Our Place* (MTOP) for our After School Hours Care (ASHC) and Vacation Care programs. We often use *Reflect, Respect, Relate* to evaluate our practice and critically reflect on how we, as educators, impact the ongoing learning of children who attend our centre. Staff are continually reflecting on how best to capture, plan for, and extend children's learning, interests, and engagement. By using the EYLF and MTOP, we build on learning dispositions such as, curiosity, collaboration, persistence, risk-taking, and exploration through play. We believe that learning progresses from concrete to symbolic and finally to abstract.

About the Centre

The centre runs a preschool program two days a week, with an additional day offered in weeks 4 and 6 of Terms 1-3 and in weeks 2, 4, and 6 of Term 4, to make up the 15 hours per week entitlement. On these days, a Department for Education (DfE) teacher is employed, supported by the Director and an Early Childhood Worker (ECW). The ECW works across both the Kindy and childcare services, providing valuable continuity and connection across the program and in practice. The Childcare Centre currently employs 17 staff members, including an Assistant Director and an appointed Education Leader. All staff across the Kindy and Childcare Centre work under a director employed by the DfE in a full time capacity.

Childcare and Kindy operate as an integrated service. Although each team programs and plans separately, they share information about children attending both services to ensure they work together to meet common goals and learning opportunities for each child. Childcare runs five days a week from 8 am to 6 pm. We provide both before-kindergarten care (8 am-9 am) and after-kindergarten care (3 pm-6 pm), After School Ours Care (3pm-6pm) as well as a vacation care program during the holidays.

Our integrated centre is located in a building at the end of the town's main street in Keith. The centre is set on large grounds with a spacious outdoor learning environment. The 0-3 age group has a separate outdoor space to the west of the building, allowing younger children the space to explore and engage in an environment tailored to their abilities and age-appropriate challenges. The 3-5 age group has an outdoor space located to the north of the building, which offers more opportunities for challenging gross motor activities. During vacation care, having two separate yards and a spacious 3-5 yard means that school-age children can kick balls, move freely, and set up larger games.

Having an integrated service allows us the flexibility to make transitions between spaces smooth and tailored to the needs of each individual child. Depending on their readiness, learning development, and need, some children may move from the 0-3 space to the 3-6 space at around 2 and a half.

The service is currently approved to provide education and care for a maximum of 62 children at any given time. As this is a Department for Education site, kindergarten children have priority for places. The remaining places can be filled by the childcare service, with a maximum of 12 children aged 0-2 years per day. We encourage families to contact the centre if they are seeking care in the future.