



Welcome to Preschool!

Here are some commonly asked questions we have from parents.

If you have any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact the office on 02 8350 1842 or info@eastlindfieldpreschool.net.au

What are the drop off and pick up times?

The Preschool opens at 7.30am, and the program runs from 9am – 3pm. We close at strictly at 3pm, and do not have an after-care program.

What do I need to bring?

Each day your child will need to bring a good-sized backpack which contains:

- Lunch
- Morning tea
- Hat (wide brimmed sunsafe)
- Drink bottle with water
- Change of clothes—shorts/pants/skirt, t-shirt, jumper, underpants (several), socks

We are a **nut free** Preschool – this includes nut-based spreads/butters, nut meals and whole nuts. Please ensure your child is familiar with what their lunch box and drink bottle look like. If they need help opening a container staff are happy to help, however if you could practice at home before they begin that would be most helpful.

Please name all the children's items.

My child has an allergy/intolerance or dietary restrictions – what do I need to do, and how will it be managed?

Allergy/Anaphylaxis/Asthma

Please provide the Preschool with a copy of your child's ASCIA allergy plan, along with any medication. All staff have up to date first-aid, anaphylaxis and asthma training and are able to use EPI-pens.

Intolerance/Dietary restriction

If your child has a food intolerance or dietary restrictions, please note this in the enrolment form and we will make every effort possible to minimise their exposure and respect your beliefs.

What should I put in my child's lunch and morning tea?

We encourage healthy eating at preschool, and actively encourage the children to consume fresh fruit and vegetables at each meal. We understand each family has their own dietary preferences, and we have flyers detailing a wide variety of healthy lunch and snack suggestions to bring to preschool. The children's food is stored in the refrigerator in their classroom. If they would prefer a warm meal, please send it in a thermos flask.

As we are trying to raise an awareness of sustainability in the children, we ask that you minimise any waste and chose to use reusable containers and try to minimise the amount of plastic wrap that the children bring.

What do I do if my child becomes upset at the gate?

Some children become distressed in a new environment with unfamiliar adults, and sometimes this can continue for a period of time during morning drop off. When saying good-bye at the gate we ask you stay positive, give your child a hug/kiss and tell them you will see them later on. If your child is upset, their teacher will provide comfort and children usually they calm down very quickly. If we do become concerned, we will contact you to discuss steps to manage this process.

How many teachers are in my child's classroom, and will they always be the same?

Each group has 2 qualified educators in the room at all times. One staff member has a university qualification and is an Early Childhood Teacher. They will have the same 2 staff members for the two or three days they attend preschool, and breaks are covered by other regular staff members who the children will be familiar with.

How will teachers help my child to learn?

In 2021 our Educators have embarked on a new curriculum approach called 'Walker Learning'. This is an evidence based way to teach, founded on neuroscience and developmental psychology in context with culture, family and community. We know that young children respond best to active learning. At ELCP our motivation is to always provide the best possible learning experience for every child, every day. Our approach is play based, within a rich environment that creates joy, delight, curiosity and connectedness.

Does my child need to be toilet trained when they start?

Whilst it is not a must, we do prefer they are toilet trained before they begin. We do understand accidents can happen in a new setting and when children are busy. The teachers will change clothes discreetly when needed. Please ensure the children have ample changes of clothing. The children are regularly encouraged to use the bathroom when they arrive, before morning tea and lunch and again before going home. The children are free of course to use the bathrooms throughout the day as required.

My child has other health and learning considerations – can you support them?

We believe all children are entitled to high quality education and will work with you and your family's support network (such as Doctors and Therapists) to enable this opportunity. Please see the Director for more information and assistance.

What is the group's daily schedule?

Each class has their own daily schedule. The upstairs classes alternate starting inside and outside times due to sharing the playground. The downstairs group follows the same regular routine, however, have their own playground. Here is an example of a preschool day:

From 7:30am	Arrive at preschool. Unpack bag and have free play outside. This will be a mixed group of children until 9am when the children go into their own classrooms.
9:00am	Children will go into their own room with their teachers. Indoor or outdoor free play.
10:30am	Morning tea, picnic style as a group outside (weather permitting)
11am	Free play and guided activities in the classroom or outdoors. Teacher lead class activities exploring a concept, or idea. This can sometimes be an intentional teaching moment from the teacher or it could be following on from an interest of the children.
1pm	Lunch, picnic style as a group outside (weather permitting)
1:30pm	Music/movement activities in the classroom or outside. Pack bags and move to outside environment.
3pm	Pick up time, Preschool is now closed.

My child has little or no English, how will they communicate with staff?

Many of our children speak languages other than English. We encourage you to introduce them to some basic English words we will use in the classroom such as lunch, toilet, hat, drink bottle, please and thank you. As they play and interact with the other children your child will become more familiar with English words and phrases. We do have some teaching staff who are fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese and Korean in the centre each day to assist your child when settling.

What if our family does not celebrate Christmas, Easter or any other religious celebration discussed in the classroom – will our child be provided with an alternate activity?

Our Preschool is a multicultural community, and we respect all cultures and belief systems. If you do not wish for your child to participate in an activity, please notify your teacher and we will work with you to find a suitable alternative. This may also present a learning opportunity for the whole class, as we teach our children respect and inclusion. The activities provided for the children can also be easily adapted for the children.

When are fees due and how do I pay?

Fees are charged in the first week of each term and are emailed through the HUBHELLO system. They are due by the end of week 3, and can be paid by bank deposit or through the iPay system using a credit or debit card (please contact the office for an authorisation form).

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