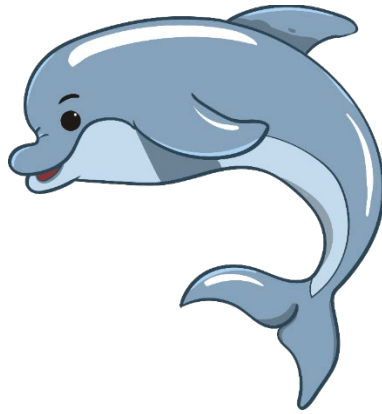


# ♥ Welcome to Kindergarten



Welcome to Kindergarten. We are very pleased that you made the decision to place your child at Scallywags.

Our goal is to provide a quality Kindergarten program within a long day care setting. The educators follow the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline and the Early Years Learning Framework to ensure a quality program for students. Your child is accessing a play based early childhood education that will assist them in developing their physical, social, emotional, and intellectual areas.

### **Separation from your child.**

For some children this is the first time that they have been away from family. This is a huge step for both parent and child. Please feel free to stay with your child for as long as you need to.

When you are ready to leave the best way to separate is to confidently say "Goodbye" and tell your child you will be back after lunch or afternoon tea, depending on the length of their day. Leave quickly; please do not linger after saying goodbye as it can cause great distress. Staff will contact you if your child does not settle, or you are able to phone after leaving to check on your child's wellbeing.

When collecting your child, chat about the day and what children have been doing.

Please be positive about Kindy, as children need reassurance that it is a safe place.

### **What do I do each day when arriving at Kindergarten?**

Our program starts at 8.30am with a group discussion about our day. Please ensure your child is here and ready to start their day with the rest of the class.

On arrival, please sign your child in using the iPad at the front desk before coming to the Kindergarten room.

When entering the room your child's belongings need to be packed away for the day. On the side of the lockers will be children's name tags. Please support your child in identifying their name and placing it within the locker they choose (this label then gets moved back at the end of the day).

Lunch boxes are placed into the fridge within the Kindergarten room (if the fridge is full please place their lunch box into the kitchen fridge and write a note in the communication book located on top of the lockers).

Water bottles can either be placed within the fridge or stored on top of the cupboard near the kindergarten storeroom.

Please help your child apply sunscreen and wash their hands before bringing them to an educator to say good morning.

As the year progresses the children will be encouraged to work on their name recognition and letter identification skills by writing their name at the sign in centre which may be located outside the kindergarten room in the hallway or on entry into the Kindergarten room.

### **How do we communicate with you?**

We send newsletters which will be uploaded to EDUCA. A printed copy will be available on the noticeboard. Other items such as art or invitations may be placed in your child's "pocket" located in the hallway. Please ensure you are checking your child's pocket.

We will also contact you via phone and email in some circumstances, please ensure that your contact details remain current so that we can contact you when required.

A communication book is placed on the Kindergarten lockers. If we are unavailable, please leave a message here. This book is checked each morning.

Your child's learning is documented using our online tool EDUCA. All learning stories, weekly programs and photo observations are posted on this platform. When new information is posted on EDUCA, you will receive an email or notification via the app to view your child's learning. With EDUCA you can also post photos and stories of events and special occasions that happen out of the centre so we can embed your child's interests into the program and discuss their special occasions with them.

Tori is happy to meet with parents as requested. Please make an appointment for a mutually acceptable time.

If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contribute your thoughts, or to offer help.

### **Kindergarten Program**

Experiences within the Kindergarten room are based on the Early Years Learning Framework, Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines, Australian Early Childhood Census Data, children's emerging interests and input from families.

Throughout the year children in the Kindergarten program will engage with a variety of technologies such as Jolly Phonics, iPads, bee-bots, computers and interactive tablets. Throughout these experiences' children develop foundational literacy and numeracy skills along with fine motor and gross motor concepts to help them transition into Prep.

### **Transitioning to school and school readiness**

Every child will experience their own unique journey when starting school. It is our job as their kindergarten teachers to help them develop fundamental skills to help them manage the transition into their formal learning years.



Research has shown that a positive start to school has been linked to positive school outcomes both with academics and social competence. Feeling successful in their transition to school equips children to better adjust to further emotional and cognitive demands, both in their school life and beyond.

Relationships underpin children's feelings about school. We will collaboratively work with you, your child and their future school to encourage active participation ensuring every child is supported as they embark on the next phase of their educational journey. This may mean referrals to outside agencies to support your child's growth and or seeking your permission to discuss the needs of your child directly with the school they will be attending.

School readiness is a broad definition which involves viewing the child holistically. This means considering not only their age and their general competencies but also their physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, communication skills and general knowledge. It is important to note that children need to have certain skills rather than specific knowledge to successfully transition to school. For

example, this may mean independently dressing themselves, using the toilet, recognising their own belongings, opening their own lunchboxes including the packaging and wrapping and talking about their ideas, needs and feelings.

School readiness also extends to the school environment; thus, it is important to choose the school your child will be attending early in their kindergarten year. Doing so provides the opportunity for your child and you to attend and participate in any planned transition experiences and provides us with the ability to communicate with the school if any support systems are required to aid transition for the child.



### Preparing your children for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning

Education is vastly different in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are now surrounded by digital technologies and have seen an advancement in the way children are understood and placed central to their

learning both in early childhood education and primary schools. To prepare your child for a smooth transition from Scallywags to their primary school years, learning experiences that develop key 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are vital in preparing children for a positive start to school and beyond in life. The four critical aspects that help develop a smooth transition to school are critical thinking/problem solving, independent learning/agency, creativity, and resilience. These critical aspects are embedded into our play-based program.

### **What is play-based learning**

Play-based learning is a holistic learning approach, which promotes discovery, creativity, imagination, and improvisation in young children. Our underpinning frameworks the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines and The Early Years Learning Framework highlight the importance of balance between child-led, child-initiated, and educator-supported learning experiences. In the kindergarten room we support children in their child-led and child-initiated learning experiences by being present in their learning, questioning, suggesting, and co-learning with the children. In doing so we enhance the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical aspects of the child's learning and children are able to further develop the skills they need to independently explore, solve problems, create and construct meaning of their world.

### **How we embed the 21<sup>st</sup> century learning aspects at Scallywags**

- Trust that children are competent decision makers
- Provide the opportunity for them to set their own learning goals
  - Consult children about changes to their learning environment
- Engage them by using communication systems that involve all children
- Facilitate learning experiences that can be returned to and extended on
  - Encourage the children to hypothesise, theorise and wonder
- Provide open-ended resources so children have the freedom to explore, create and imagine in their own unique way
- Explore the concept of school by questioning, researching, and viewing school environments
- Explore the concept of similarities and differences through child-led and educator-initiated experiences
- Support and assist children in identifying safe and unsafe behaviours and people
  - Help children use their voices to identify their feelings
  - Discuss, create, and set clear expectations with the children
    - Role model positive behaviour
    - Explore concepts through dramatic play
  - Role-model, encourage and discuss healthy food options
    - Cooking to explore literacy and numeracy
- Exploring and developing our physical movement skills through song, dance, games, and incursions

### **What to supply each day:**

- Spare clothes - in case of toileting accidents or messy play.
- Sun safe wide brim hat (We supply sunscreen for children each time they go outside to play)
  - Sturdy sunglasses are encouraged
- Water bottle - bubblers are available outside for the children. We also have cups if their bottle is forgotten
  - Morning tea - fruit, cheese, yoghurt
  - Lunch - sandwich or similar. We can reheat leftovers.
  - Afternoon tea - Something healthy that your child enjoys.
- Shoes - Even if they stay in their bags. Thongs are often associated with accidents, please consider this when choosing footwear.  
(We encourage bare feet)
- We encourage healthy food, please do not send sweet biscuits, custard, chocolate, lollies, chips, cakes, roll-ups, poppers, fruit juices, cordial, flavoured milks etc. We call them "at home treats" and these will be sent home with a reminder note and your child offered an alternative.

### **Please no nut bars, Nutella, peanut butter, or nuts in any form.**

- In Kindergarten children are offered the opportunity to rest but not necessarily to sleep. If your child requests a bed, one will be provided for them. As the year progresses and less of the kindergarten children sleep, your child may be asked if they wish to sleep in another room.

**PLEASE PROVIDE A FLAT SHEET ONLY (NAMED AND FOLDED IN YOUR CHILD'S BAG) FOR IF THEY REQUEST A SLEEP.**

**PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS WITH CHILD'S NAME -THIS KEEPS STAFF SANE.**

Please ask for assistance if you are unsure what to bring.

## **Our daily routine**

### **8.30am Morning Meeting**

Roll call, morning songs, sharing time, discussion about days activities

### **8.30am - 9.30am Indoor/Outdoor play and morning tea**

Children lead free flow play between their indoor and outdoor environments.

Progressive morning tea where children choose when they want to eat.

### **9.30am Indoor Play and Group Learning**

Children explore the indoor environment. A range of intentional learning experiences and child-led experiences will be explored.

### **11.30am Pack away time**

### **11.45am Lunch time**

### **12.30pm Sleep/Rest**

Children will transition from lunch to yoga then will rest mindfully for 20 mins. Those who don't sleep will participate in rotational activities

### **1.00pm Quiet Rotational Activities**

Drawing, name recognition, Lego, science investigation, light table etc of child led and teacher intentional learning

### **2.00pm Wake up time**

Children who are still asleep will be gently woken. Children continue to engage with quiet experiences.

### **2.30pm End of day meeting**

Children come together to discuss their day, interests, and thoughts. Apply sunscreen, wash hands.

### **3.00pm Afternoon Tea**

### **3.30pm Outdoor Play**

Children will participate in both planned and spontaneous learning experiences

## KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM – ENROLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Sallywags Child Care Centre provides a Queensland Government approved Kindergarten Program that is delivered by a qualified teacher during school terms.

Eligible children for the Kindergarten Program in 2022:

- Are born between the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- Will attend at least 2 days per week

**SEIFA Subsidy: \$11.22 per week**

- Applies to all children attending 2 or more days
- Is applied directly to your Sallywags Childcare Fees Account

**QKFS Support Subsidy: \$22.53 per week**

Applies to families that supply a copy of their:

- Health Care Card
- Australian Government Pensioner Card
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card or White Card
- Formal communication from relevant Department stating intent to issue a card
- Identify as Torres Strait Islander and/or Aboriginal
- Have three or more children of the same age, enrolled in the same year

A copy of **ONE** of the following must be provided to prove your child's date of birth:

- Birth certificate
- Passport
- Statutory declaration
- Government issued document stating date of birth e.g. immunisation statement from Medicare

## 36 hours of Child Care Subsidy

**Preschool exemption to the activity test?**

Parents who do not meet and are not otherwise exempt from the Child Care Subsidy activity test will be entitled to 36 hours of subsidised care per fortnight to support their preschool-aged child to attend a preschool program.

**When does the preschool exemption apply?**

1. You must be eligible for Child Care Subsidy
2. Your usual entitlement is less than 36 hours of subsidised care per fortnight (0 or 24 hours)
3. You have a preschool aged child
4. You have indicated 2021 as your child's school start date in your child care assessment