



Wongan Hills Kindergarten Information Booklet 2019

*‘Pursuing excellence in education in a positive and
rewarding environment’*



Dear Parents and Care Givers,

Hello and welcome to both children and parents. As we head towards a new school year, we anticipate a happy and rewarding time for you and your child as they start Kindergarten in 2020 at Wongan Hills District High School. We look forward to working together with you to ensure your child's success at and smooth transition into the world of formalised schooling.

Your child starting Kindergarten will undoubtedly be a significant event in both of your lives. The Kindy staff understands that you and your child may meet this day with a range of emotions varying from excitement to apprehension and everything in between. As you share the beginning of your child's journey remember and value the important role you have played in their lives so far, and will continue to play throughout the years of the schooling and beyond. Your views of school and the importance you place on it will impact your child whether you intend it to or not.

We believe that a strong and positive parent-staff relationship is necessary in order to maximise success at school. Throughout the year we will communicate with you through a variety of means including notes, meetings, telephone calls and parent-teacher conferences. We encourage you to contact the class teacher at any time if you have any questions or concerns. Similarly staff will approach you with any concerns they may have and we will work together to address them. We want to work with you to ensure that your child's school life is as rich, as happy and as rewarding as possible. Unfortunately your child's school life may not always flow smoothly, but moments of difficulty are also opportunities for learning, problem solving, perseverance and growth.

School is just one of the environments in which your child will learn. As your child's work comes home from school try to pick out the topics presented in the work and talk about it in your daily lives.

Remember to ask your child about their day at school. Include questions such as: "What did you do outside today?", "Did something funny happen today?", "What was your favourite part of the day?" "I noticed you have paint on your fingers what did you paint today?", "Did you learn about something new?", "Who did you play with?"

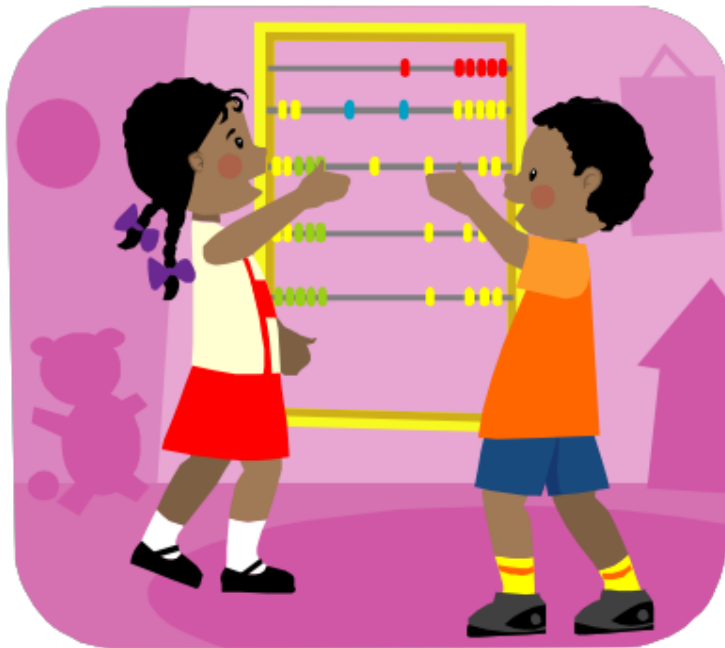
These are just some ways in which you can encourage your child to maintain positive feelings about school and show them that you value their education.

When your child does bring things home, talk to them about it. "Tell me about this painting", "How did you make this?" Try to make a habit of asking these questions as often as possible but don't be discouraged if your child doesn't wish to discuss the day or what they have created. "I can't remember", or "We didn't do anything", is quite likely to mean, "I'm too tired", or, "Could you ask me later?"

As children grow and learn they gain greater control over their world and their lives. Encourage this mastery by helping your child to be independent and to be responsible for their own things. Young children are quite capable of packing and unpacking their own their own school bags and carrying them to and from the classroom (except on days when they are too heavy). Often they come up with creative ways of doing things and our challenge

is then finding the patience to let them figure it out for themselves! Your child's independence will be fostered at school and they will be given set tasks to complete each morning. Encourage them take ownership of these tasks and to complete them independently.

We look forward to working with you and your child and helping him/her to achieve to their full potential.



The Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines

Early childhood educators strive to provide relevant learning opportunities for children that take into account diverse family, cultural, linguistic, school and community influences. They know that children draw on a wide range of knowledge, experiences, interests, and skills that impact on the way they learn.

The Kindergarten program at WHDHS works within school policies and priorities whilst also collaborating with external agencies to ensure its connection with whole school approaches developed to suit the context of our students at our school.

The Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines recommend the use of the following curriculum decision making processes:

- **Plan and Organise for learning and teaching** – daily, short and long term plans. Educators strive to provide relevant learning opportunities that take into account the experiences, interest and capabilities of individuals and groups of children.
- **Enact, interact and respond thoughtfully using a number of strategies to engage children in learning experiences.** Educators provide feedback to strengthen learning.
- **Monitor, assess and document** children's learning and participation in a variety of ways in diverse contexts over time.
- **Analyse and evaluate** to inform ongoing planning and share information with parents and colleague's.
- **Reflect** on learning and practice to further professional growth. Interact with colleagues and identify areas for further professional learning that will improve curriculum processes and practices.

The Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines inform our planning and program implementation at Wangan Hills District High School. Student learning will come from a balanced Early Years program involving intentional teaching, types of play and child directed play and learning. These three aspects of learning are not mutually exclusive, but rather complementary teaching approaches. All three offer significant teaching and learning opportunities and require dedicated time within a balanced learning program. Teacher commitment to explicit teaching and their role in actively scaffolding learning are central to all three approaches. The balance between the three approaches will vary by context and children's development levels as they progress through school.

We look forward to working with your children and establishing a solid partnership with you to ensure the best learning outcomes for all.

Ms Karen Marshall
Associate Principal

We must never underestimate the power of play.

Types of Play

Play is a valued process for children's learning, thinking, imagination, story making and communication. The play of young children includes many different types including sensory, explorative, physical, creative, symbolic, projective, role, and dramatic play and games with rules. All are important aspects of children's learning and development. (Early Years Framework)

Guided Play

In guided play the teacher manages the play environment, resources and classroom interactions with the purpose of achieving specific learning outcomes. In common with intentional teaching, guided play activities can be used to develop skills, concepts, understandings and dispositions through a range of shared classroom-learning contexts.

Child Directed Play

In child directed play and learning the teacher creates an environment that offers opportunities for discovery and challenge, with the aim of encouraging children to actively construct their own learning experiences.

Children may choose how, when, what and with whom to engage and interact. The teacher is present in the play context, and is responsive to the focus and direction of children's play. In child-directed play children will be selecting and directing their own learning skills, concepts, understandings and dispositions by participating in a range of learning activities and experiences.

<i>When your child:</i>	<i>They may:</i>
PLAYS WITH WATER OR SAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discover what makes water flow fast or slow and that it will not flow uphill.• Count the number of cups of water it takes to fill a jug.
BUILDS WITH BLOCKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan what to do and put plans into action.• Discuss the length of the blocks and estimate how many will be required for their building.• Decide why a building should have a verandah.
PLAYS WITH A BALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn how balls bounce.• Catch or chase the ball.• Learn to share with friends and follow the set rules of a game.
DRESSES UP AND ROLE PLAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn about how another person feels.• Learn to think about other cultures.• Act out things that are concerning them.

Helpful Kindergarten Information

Staffing

Teacher: Miss Teena Gordan

Education Assistants: TBA

Various other staff members will also assist throughout the year.

Session Times

The Kindergarten program will run two full days in Semester One and increasing to three full days in Semester Two

Semester One – Term 1 and Term 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Semester Two – Term 3 and Term 4

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Please arrive after 8.30am for a 8.50am start. The day will conclude at 3pm.

It is important that session times are strictly adhered to. Children settle more easily if they all arrive together and late arrivals may cause disruptions to the rest of the group. Also, at the end of a session, children can become easily distressed if they feel they've been forgotten.

Regular attendance at Kindy is crucial to your child's success.

We can't emphasize this point enough. Most Kindergarten learning activities are group oriented and involve interaction with classmates. Therefore, it is next to impossible to make up work at home. For your child to experience as much success as possible it is important that your child attends every day except in cases of illness or emergency. Please contact the school if your child is unable to attend school.

It is not mandatory that your child enrol in Kindergarten but once enrolled it is mandatory that they attend.

Term Dates for 2019

- Term 1 Monday 3rd February – Friday 9th April
- Term 2 Monday 28th April – Friday 3th July
- Term 3 Monday 20th July – 25th September
- Term 4 Monday 12th October – 17th December

Parent Help

After an initial settling in period we ask parents to help at the centre during morning sessions. This allows us to offer a more in depth program as it provides more adults to assist with activities. Parent help is a special time for the children because it allows them to share an environment that they consider their own with someone significant to them. It also shows them that you value their education. The parent help roster can be undertaken by parents, friends, grandparents etc. More information regarding parent help will be sent home at a later date.

Special Occasions

Throughout the school year there will be a variety of special classroom activities and celebrations (eg. Mother's and Father's Day). We encourage you to attend these functions whenever possible and to support them by sending in needed supplies or treats. Your support of Kindy activities makes your child feel important and helps us to deliver an extensive, in depth program.

Birthdays

Birthdays are special occasions for young children. If your child wishes, they could bring in a cake for their birthday. Please let us know in advance so we can set aside some class time to celebrate. Healthy alternatives to birthday cakes include individual bubble pots, balloons, stickers, bouncy balls, etc.

Clothing

Please dress your child in clothing suitable for running, jumping and sitting on the floor. Pants and comfortable, secure shoes are practical. School uniform is always encouraged as accidents are inevitable and despite the care taken by staff paint always seems to end up spilt. Please leave a change of clothes in your child's bag **at all times** in case of accidents.

Hats

Wongan Hills DHS has a "No hat, No play" policy. Personalised school hats are available to be purchased from the Kindy for \$7.00.

Bags

Children will need a **large** school bag that is big enough to carry artwork, books, lunch boxes, spare clothes, etc.

Lunch and a water bottle

Children are required to bring along lunch in a clearly labelled container.

We encourage a healthy diet in order to help children maintain their concentration throughout the day. Therefore we ask you do not pack chips, chocolates etc in lunch boxes.

Please remember that we are a **nut free** school.

Similarly children are encouraged to drink water during the kindy day and will need a labelled water bottle — please do not send cordial or juice.

Fruit

Please send in 1-2 pieces of fruit or salad vegetable to share each day. You may also send rice crackers, cheese, sultanas or plain popcorn.

Please advise us if your child has any food allergies now or if they develop any throughout the year.

Rest Time

Children will have the opportunity to rest after lunch on most days.

Farm Children

Buses will drop off and collect children from the bus area on Quinlan Street. If your child **will not** be travelling home by bus, please let us know in writing. Kindy children are usually brought to the classroom by an older child on the bus each morning and then will be accompanied to the bus by a staff member in the afternoons.

Please Note: It is the parent's responsibility to let the bus driver and the school know if your child will not be travelling home on the bus.

Drop Off

All parents dropping off children are asked to park in the Kindy car park off Parker Street or in main school parent car park on Quinlan Street. Please allow some time to spend with your child at Kindy each morning.

Book list

Please supply the following items for use throughout the year as per the attached Kindy Personal Use items list.

Tissues, glue sticks and textas are shared between all students and do not need to be labelled. Please label plastic envelope/document folder clearly.

Illness

As this may be your child's first year of mixing with a group of children, please be aware that they can be prone to catching lots of "bugs". If your child is ill, please refrain from bringing them to school and **contact the school to let us know**. Sickness is one of the few things we don't encourage be shared!

Head Lice

With children in close physical contact, lice are a common problem that occurs at school, so please check hair regularly and treat if needed. Please let the teacher know if you have had to treat your child as we will send a note home asking all parents to be vigilant in order to stop the spread. This matter will be handled discretely without any names being mentioned but will assist us to stop the frequency of head lice infestations.

Collecting your child.

Please note that we are unable to release children to people that are not known to the school. In order to avoid difficulties please inform staff if someone else will be collecting your child.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten – things to do at home

1. **Letters** – at Kindy we learn the **letter sounds**, not the letter names. Please keep this in mind when you are discussing letters with your child. Talk about the letters in their name or their siblings names and encourage them to find familiar letters in other places (eg books, signs, labels etc.)
2. **Sounds** – talk about what sound words start with. eg. cat starts with a 'c' sound, dog with a 'd' sound. The children don't necessarily need to know it is a letter c or d, but they need to be able to hear the sounds.
3. **Count, count, count!** Count as many things as you can and as often as possible!
4. Talk about **colours and shapes**. Help your child to learn to identify them in a variety of contexts.
5. **Use pencils and scissors!** Scribble and draw and colour. Cut things out, draw in the sand with sticks or in the mud with fingers. Practice using those little muscles!
6. **READ!** Read lots of books and ask lots of questions about them.
7. **TALK!** Talk about what you are doing, what you did on the weekend or what you are going to do next week. Encourage questions and curiosity.

Cutting Skills – Five things to remember!

1. Thumbs need to be pointing up to the roof.
2. Elbow tucked in.
3. Move paper to go around corners, not the scissors!
4. Eyes looking at the paper.
5. Go Slowly.



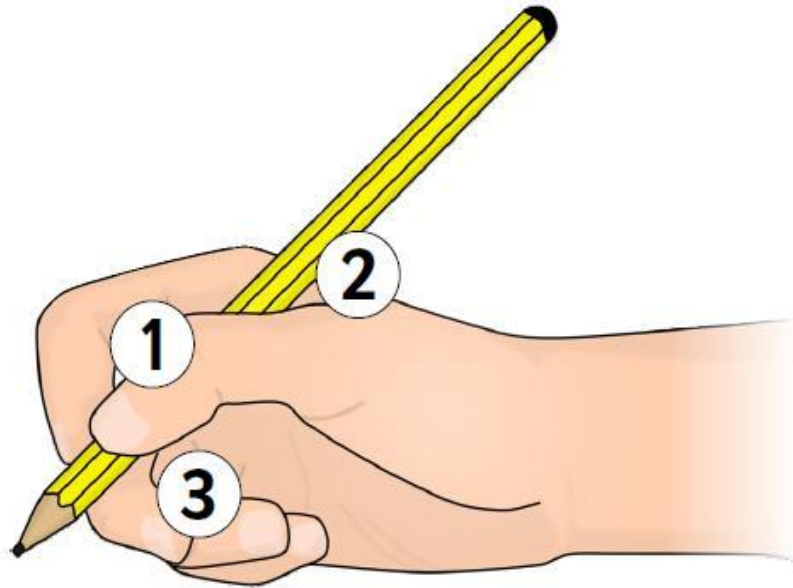
Complete Alphabet and Numerals
Foundation Handwriting

a b c d e f g h i j k
l m n o p q r s t u
v w x y z

A B C D E F G H I J
K L M N O P Q R S T
U V W X Y Z

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

How to Hold a Pencil



1. Put your thumb and forefinger just above the cone shaped part of the pencil.
2. Let the pencil rest between your thumb and forefinger.
3. Then put your middle finger underneath for support.

How to Hold a Pair of Scissors



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