OUR LEARNING PROGRAM

Our learning program is inspired by the work of the schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy, The Nunga Way and Nature Play theories. We work together with children through long term projects to discover ideas, develop theories and provide opportunities for learning and research alongside the children.

We see children as competent and capable learners who come with a wealth of knowledge and ideas about the world.

The curriculum emerges through interest and experiences, and social interaction between peers and adults. Educators reflect on the interests and development of the children and use this understanding to plan their programs, facilitating rather than directing the learning process. Children are empowered to have genuine voice and choice in both their learning and the learning environment.

Literacy learning is promoted through Project Work, authentic play experiences, story tables, bookmaking and Writer’s workshop (a strategy used throughout the school beginning in kindergarten), phonological awareness, shared reading in groups and individual reading times.

Numeracy is also promoted in real life situations through project work, authentic play experiences, targeted excursions, ‘experts’ in the community, incidental and planned experiences, and story tables.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

We aim to support the children in accepting responsibility for their own behaviour. We discuss and establish rules to ensure a safe environment for everyone. Children and adults in the Nest:

* care for themselves;
* care for others;
* care for this place. (Further details are outlined in our Policy, ‘Interactions with Children’)

What to bring:

Reception Children: Must wear School Uniform and this is always navy blue and yellow.

Kindergarten Children: Comfortable, sensible clothes that they are able wear while exploring mud, water, paint, as well as climb, swing and balance.

All children must wear an appropriate wide-brimmed hat in term 1 and 4. Reception children have to wear the Alberton approved school hat available at the Uniform Shop. All clothes, hats, shoes, bags, lunch boxes and drink bottles must be labelled. It is a good idea to pack a spare set of clothes.

Birthdays: Due to allergies and DECD Policy on Healthy eating we ask that you do not send cakes.

Treasures: Please remember that small toys (cars etc) can easily be lost or stolen so we ask that children leave these at home. However, if your child has a particular attachment object or toy, please see staff as special arrangements can be made.

PLEASE NOTE - It is essential that you deliver and collect your child at the appropriate times. We appreciate your punctuality at all times. If you arrive before 8:45 please feel free to enjoy our learning environment with your child.
In order to feel part of a group, to learn and develop relationships children must attend regularly.

Food and Drink

We encourage healthy eating habits in accordance with Departmental Policy, so no lollies, chocolate, chips, cheezels or twisties. We will have a shared snack of fruit each day. We are an ‘Allergy Aware’ school and currently have a child enrolled with a nut allergy. We ask that you do not send nuts or nut products. Children need to bring their own lunch. Please no juice or soft drinks.

Children do not need to bring a drink as self-serve water is always available from the Puratap in the Coral room. Water is the best drink for active, growing bodies.

Please note that we are unable to reheat any food for lunches or snacks. Also, you will need to pack ‘ice bricks’ to keep food cool particularly in the warmer weather.

Reception children are able to place lunch orders. We have modified the canteen list in keeping with our healthy eating policy. Reception children only are able to access the canteen at recess and lunch time.

Communication:

Newsletters will be emailed twice per term. Please check your emails regularly as this will be our main form of communication (If you do not have an email address, notices will go into your communication pocket.) We regularly email home sections of our project work as well as Stories which will document your child’s learning in the Nest. A ‘Statement of Learning’ will be provided at the end of the year.

Fees:

Reception Fees: as per school.

Contributions for Kindergarten are $150 per term.

The Government provides an “Operating Grant” which is budgeted to provide equipment for all areas of the curriculum. The parent contributions are needed to supplement the grant. The money from our fees is used to purchase consumables, such as paper, paint, collage materials, cooking ingredients; equipment and helps to subsidise the number of support staff in our centre.

Fees can be paid at the front office of the school or by internet payment. Arrangements can be made for fees to be paid directly through Centrepay, a service provided by Centrelink. Staff at the school office will be able to provide you with the necessary forms.

Getting Involved

We consider our families to be a vital part of our program. Throughout the year we offer many ways for you to become involved in your child’s education.

We invite parents to come into the Nest each term to hear about our plans for the term through our Project work. We value your input into our programs and enjoy hearing your ideas or connections to enhance our work with the children.
We welcome you to come and spend time in the Nest. If that seems a little daunting, you may like to come and share a special skill with the children, such as cooking, art, music, dance or sewing, gardening, maintenance work or simply staying for an hour or so.

When we go on excursions we need the assistance of our families to come along and help us keep tabs on our little people. Helpers have provided very positive feedback about their own enjoyment of our trips out and about.

**Note:** All helpers in the Nest (and the whole school) will need to have agreed to a Police Check through the school (forms available at the front office) and have attended Responding to Abuse and Neglect Training (RAN) which will be offered through the school.

**Working Bees:** are held twice a year and we really need your help on those occasions! Please consider committing to one per year.

**Library:** Children are encouraged to borrow from the School Library either with their parent/caregiver or with staff. We will let you know which day this will happen.

**Assembly:** Reception children attend a Success Assembly every second Friday and parents/families are welcome to attend.

**Educators in the Nest**

Marilyn, Susan, Penny, and Ellie are trained early childhood Teachers (Birth to 8).

We have a group of highly skilled co-educators working in the Nest. Your child will be in a ‘home group’ with a teacher and a co-educator. These educators will be your first point of contact for information about your child or the program.

Andrew Plastow is the principal of our school and is involved in the administration and day to day running of the School including the Nest. Marilyn Hayward is the Coordinator, Early Years.

**PLAYGROUP 0-5 years**

Playgroup is coordinated by Mandy on Friday mornings, from 9.30 - 11.30 am. The children have a wonderful time playing together while caregivers can enjoy some adult conversation and a cup of tea or coffee. Parents need to stay with their child. We ask for a gold coin donation to cover any costs for activities offered on the day. Children will need to bring a piece of fruit to share.