

Welcome to Riverstone Public School Preschool 2021



Information booklet for families and community



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Our Humble Beginnings....

Riverstone Preschool was allocated a grant in June 1977 and began enrolling children in September 1977. Much of the credit goes to Mr Ron Hill, the Principal at the time, who advocated for a Preschool to be attached to Riverstone Public School.

Since 1977, children in our local area have greatly benefited from having access to our early childhood learning programs that supports children's transition to Kindergarten.

Staffing in Preschool

Our Preschool Team is made up of Early Childhood Teachers, School Learning and Support Officers (SLSO), an Aboriginal Education Officer and volunteers.

Mr Cruikshank is our Principal. Collectively we consider ourselves all as educators and each contribute to children's learning. We also have educators from K-6 part of our school relieving us for breaks and planning time. Together we all bring diverse expertise, experience and talents to deliver a quality service supporting children's learning and development through age appropriate program and planning.

<p>Our Principal, also called the Responsible person in charge, educational leader and nominated supervisor. He has delegated and appointed the supervision of the Preschool education program to the Preschool—Kindergarten supervisor. This person is known as the Preschool Supervisor.</p>	<p>The Preschool Supervisor is a member of the executive team who has deep knowledge of the Early Years Learning Framework, is aware of the National Quality Standards and is responsible for supporting the educators implement a quality curriculum, as well as ensuring policies and procedures are followed at all times.</p>	<p>Our qualified Early Childhood Teachers are responsible for; planning and implementing a quality play-based program that is relevant to the children in their local context and guided by the Early Years Learning Framework. Translating school policies and programs into suitable learning experiences that are inclusive and meaningful for the children in the preschool.</p>
<p>Our SLSO's are our qualified Early Childhood, School Learning and Support Officers with a minimum Certificate 3 level approved qualification. They assist our teachers to implement the preschool program.</p>	<p>Our valued volunteers and secondary or tertiary education students join our team from time to time. They participate in an induction process and assist teachers and SLSO's as required throughout the day. These helpers have completed a working with children check and staff induction before working in the preschool.</p>	<p>Relieving and duty teachers and educators wherever possible have early childhood qualification and expertise. We work hard to ensure consistency and continuity for children by having familiar and regular staff cover primary throughout the week to cover staff lunch breaks and planning times. All regular relieving and K-6 staff complete an annual Preschool induction process guided with the Principal, Preschool supervisor and educator team.</p>

Important governance information

All early childhood services are required to follow National Education and Care Laws and Regulations. This ensures that services provide high quality education and care for all children.

At Riverstone Public School Preschool, we are also guided by the principles, practices and outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework in planning a responsive program to meet the individual needs of your child.

As a Department of Education Preschool, we are also responsible for following the Leading and Operating Department Preschools Guidelines. For further information, please follow the link below or access these important documents by using the QR codes provided.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/early-learning/department-preschools>



Please use the camera app on your phone or tablet to access key information underpinning how our Preschool operates. Please see our Principal/Educational Leader or teachers if you would like to discuss our governance arrangements or have any queries.

**Education and Care
National Regulations**



**Education and Care
National Law**



**The Early Years Learning
Framework**



**Guide to the National
Quality Framework**



What I need to bring to Preschool

Children's Belongings

- ┌ Large backpack
- ┌ A drink bottle filled with water only
- ┌ Spare change of clothes for water play
- ┌ A school hat (or own sun-safe hat)
- ┌ A school uniform (optional)
- ┌ Shoes / Joggers
- ┌ A lunch box filled with nutritious lunch and morning tea

Please label all clothing and belongings, including shoes and socks.

Arriving at Preschool

To build your child's independence, children will be asked to hang their bag on their hook, unpack their bags upon arrival, place their lunch box in their tote tray, place drink bottle in its designated area and bring a hat.

At the end of each day educators will support children to pack their own bags ready for pick up.



Remember to put on sunscreen BEFORE arriving at Preschool.

In case you forget, we have a sunscreen station located in Preschool.

We are a Cancer Council Sun Safe Preschool.

Food at Preschool

Our Preschool implements a **Munch and Move Program**. The program encourages a healthy diet and being physically active. Early childhood is the ideal time for children to develop and practice healthy eating and physical activity habits.

We ask all children to pack at least one piece of fruit or vegetable sticks daily for a morning tea and a healthy meal for lunch time. We also ask that only water be brought to Preschool in a labelled drink bottle.

We are an 'allergy aware school' and support building strong teeth and bodies. We ask that Nutella, peanut butter, nuts, nut bars, chocolates, chips, cakes, donuts and flavoured juices are kept for home. See www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au for healthy food suggestions.

Allergy Aware School



Please be mindful about food choices and pack all food in an insulated lunch box with an ice brick to keep it fresh. We do not have the facilities to refrigerate or heat food.



Canteen

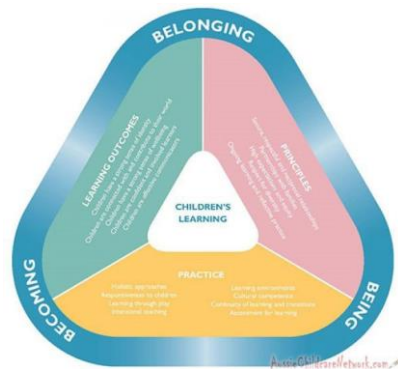
Families have the option to purchase from the canteen for lunch. Preschool have their own menu with options tailored to support NSW Health, healthy eating guidelines.



Educational Program

During your child's time at Riverstone Public School Preschool, teachers and educators engage in playful learning with your child, in line with our service philosophy and deep understanding of how young children learn best. While playing with your child, we make observations of learning which are analysed using the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). The analysis drives our planning decisions, determining ways in which your child's learning can be extended. The implementation of those plans is detailed in our shared program. Through an evaluation and reflection process, the learning cycle continues and planning for your child is consolidated and new possibilities are explored. You will find an overview of the educational program displayed at preschool and have access to your child's individual program via our secure digital media app and through conversation with teachers.

For more information about the EYLF, available in many community languages, please follow this link <https://www.education.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework-0>



Partnerships for enhancing children's learning

At Riverstone PS Preschool, we believe that children's learning is enhanced through active and regular conversation and collaboration with families. We value your expertise, insights and aspirations for your child's program. We are interested in your opinions and are here to support you with any queries or worries about your child's learning too.

- ◆ We host formal shared planning meetings where progress and development are discussed. From these we can ensure individualised programs are addressing shared learning priorities and supporting children's development in all areas of the EYLF.
- ◆ Term 1 – meeting to discuss your child's progress and setting goals.
- ◆ Term 3-4 – meeting to discuss your child's progress, finalise goals and complete Transition to School Statements and individual planning through the transition to school process.

Additional information about what families and carers can expect from their child's preschool and ideas for how to support and encourage children's learning at home can be found at;

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/resources/information-families>

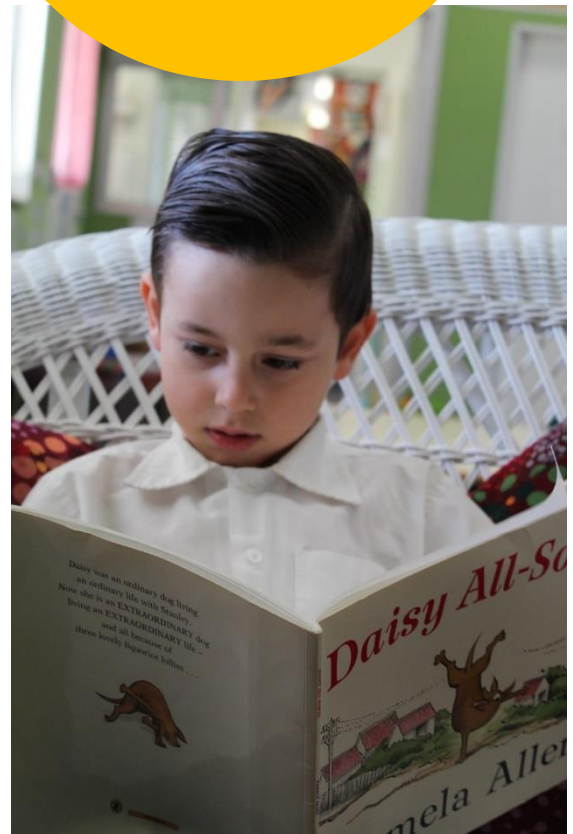
Learning Environment

In Preschool, we recognise play and unhurried time to explore, investigate, socialise, follow own interests and passions, and revisit favourite experiences many times over as powerful contributors to learning.

To support learning we have intentionally designed our indoor learning environments to include the following learning centres;

- Dramatic play centre
- Small and large construction
- Book nook
- Numeracy centre
- Science centre
- Puzzles and games
- Manipulative and fine motor

Remember to pack extra clothing in your child's bag for water play and messy experiences



Our outdoor environment is large and spacious. We have intentionally defined the following spaces, but have also catered for large open spaces for gross motor activities to be implemented:

- Yarning circle garden
- Large wooden teepee
- Chalkboard
- Musical instruments
- Eating space

Sand pit
 Outdoor play kitchen
 Creative play
 Magnetic board
 Edible garden

8:55	Greetings Music & movement morning warm up
9:20	Outdoor play– hat and sunscreen please!!
10:30 – 11:15	Progressive morning tea
11:30	Acknowledgment of country, singing and transition indoors
11:45	Mindfulness moment and sharing. Indoor play
1pm	Lunch time followed by literacy and numeracy focused play
2pm	Daily shared reflections and packing bags

Daily Routine

2:25	Targeted small group learning through play
2:55	Home Time

Note, this is variable depending on children's program priorities, weather and other events

As a SunSmart preschool, our routine changes the weather. For this reason, during Term 1 and 4 children will play outdoors in the morning and then indoors in the afternoon. During Term 2 and 3, this will reverse and children will play indoors in the morning and then outdoors in the afternoon.



Please check your family pockets and the events board, for information about extra activities throughout the year

Celebrating Diversity



At Riverstone Public School Preschool, we take pride in celebrating special cultural days that are representative of our community. This includes Easter, Anzac Day, Eid, Diwali, Reconciliation Week, Book Week, NAIDOC Week, Harmony Day and Christmas. If you have any special days that you celebrate, please let us know.

Birthdays

For many, your child's birthday is an important milestone and we feel honoured to be a part of your child's precious moment.

We like to use birthdays as learning opportunity and teach children the concept of celebrating others. On a child's birthday we support other children to plan and organise a party. We will provide children with the materials to celebrate in ways that are meaningful to them.

Due to the number of children that attend preschool and the number of birthdays we celebrate, we discourage cakes or cupcakes from being brought in from home. If you would like to bring in something, we encourage fruit platters or fruit kebabs. If you wish to do this, please ensure you cater for both classes; 40 children.

Health and wellbeing

If your child is unwell it is best to keep them at home to reduce sharing their germs/illness with other children and educators.

Please call or email the school to let us know that your child is ill and won't be attending for the day. In the case of infectious diseases, we will send out a fact sheet to all families to support reduction of infections from spreading any further.

What happens if my child is sick at preschool?

Children can sometimes present with symptoms of illness such as fevers, vomiting or diarrhoea while at preschool. In these cases, we will contact families to collect their children and seek medical advice if needed. Your child's comfort and wellbeing is our highest priority.

Accidents or Incidents

If your child has an accident while at Preschool, we will provide the basic first aid required and contact you if further medical attention is required. *Please ensure your contact details are always up to date. If you have a change of telephone number or house address, please let the office know immediately.*



Allergies and health conditions

If your child has any allergies or health conditions that requires an emergency action plan, please let us know before your child starts. This includes:

Anaphylaxis

Allergies

Asthma

Together we can make the necessary arrangements to support your child.

General Information

Arrival and Departure from Preschool

We acknowledge that families are required to collect other children from school, but for your child to benefit the most from the program we offer, we strongly encourage families to arrive as close to 8:55am as possible, and to collect no earlier than 2:30pm.

There is no parking available on-site. The car park is strictly for staff only.

We do understand that sometimes you may be unavoidably delayed. Please ring the Preschool to let us know.



The fee structure for Riverstone Public School Preschool is \$15 per day. Depending on the pattern of enrolment for your child's class, you will be charged \$30 per week for one semester and \$45 per week for the other semester. If your child is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or you hold a current Centrelink Health Care Card, you are entitled to reduced fees. Please see office staff for more details.

Permission to Collect

We will not allow your child to leave with anyone who is not on the permission to collect list you have signed.

You can update the list at any time. A photo ID will be requested by Preschool educators as proof of identity until we are familiar with approved drop off and collection persons.

In the event that you need to ask someone who is not on the list to collect your child, you will need to contact the school to notify us with the new pick up contact details. You must provide the persons full name, as written on their photo ID (e.g. driver's licence).

Please ensure that you remind the approved persons to bring their photo ID as we will not release your child if an ID cannot be produced. The person collecting your child must be at least 18 years of age.

Preschool Information Booklet

Address: Riverstone Public School
Elizabeth Street
Riverstone NSW 2765

Telephone: 9627 1517
To be used between 8:25am – 3:15pm

Email: riverstone-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Hours: **8:55 – 2:55pm 2021 school terms**

	Term 1 and Term 2	Term 3 and Term 4
Blue and Green	Monday, Tuesday	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Red and purple	Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	Thursday, Friday



We look forward to meeting you and

your child!

