



Connected • Engaged • Successful



# Kindergarten Handbook 2023

Connected Community, Engaged Educators, Successful Students

# Welcome

The staff at Hillarys Primary School warmly welcome you to our Kindergarten Class of 2023.

Kindergarten is a very exciting time for both parents and children, and for many, it is the first time they have been part of a school community.

At Hillarys, we see the early years of education as the foundational building blocks for developing lifelong learning. Our teaching staff place high value on quality reciprocal relationships with students, parents and the community. We work as a collaborative team and aim to positively influence children's growth and development across all domains - intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially. Our engaged educators consistently strive to provide a program that is both academic and social, challenging and stimulating, within an inclusive environment.

This booklet contains information about our Kindergarten program. It outlines key operational processes and covers a number of practical issues to ensure your child's care and safety and to enable a smooth and enjoyable transition to Kindergarten.



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# Our Beliefs about Teaching and Learning

It is our belief that teaching and learning in the early years should be holistic and child centred. Our programs are developed using a balanced approach incorporating play-based, child and teacher directed learning activities. This is to ensure all children have the best opportunity to gain the knowledge, skill and values required to become confident and capable citizens.



## Teaching

Staff use the mandated curriculum documents the *Early Years Framework*, *Kindy Curriculum Guidelines* and *National Quality Standard* to plan purposeful engaging learning experiences that promote the development of skills.



## Learning

Planned learning experiences reflect the needs and interests of children as we believe all children should have a voice in their education. They are encouraged to learn from their peers through collaborative projects.



## Assessing

Assessments about learning are gathered over time and in a variety of contexts to ensure children can show what they know. We believe assessments should be purposeful, developmentally appropriate and inform future planned experiences.

# Our Programs

At Hillarys, our programs focus on the development of the whole child. We cater for children's learning styles and provide multiple opportunities for them to engage in hands-on learning experiences through play.

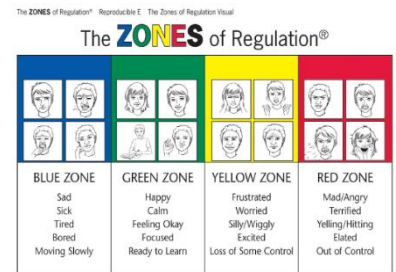
We plan collaboratively using current Education Department documents which include the Early Years Framework, Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines and National Quality Standard to develop whole group, small group, and individual learning experiences.

## Social and Emotional Development

The Kindy program plays an important role in developing children's self-awareness and self-confidence. Being able to separate from a parent each day and have the skills and confidence to speak to peers and staff will be the main focus of the Kindergarten year.

We want children to:

- ❖ Develop a sense of self, including feeling good about themselves and celebrate what they can do
- ❖ Develop social skills to get along with others
- ❖ Develop emotional skills such as recognising, expressing and managing a wide range of feelings



## Fine and Gross Motor Control

As your child progresses through the school, they need to develop skills to:

- ❖ *Hold a pencil* for a period of time without becoming tired, or complaining their arm is hurting
- ❖ *Sit in a chair* with feet flat on the floor, back straight and opposite arm resting on the table to help support them without slouching or wriggling
- ❖ *Sit on the mat* without losing focus or wriggling

These skills develop over time and for your child to be successful at reading and writing, they need to have strength in their hands, arms, stomach, and back.

At Kindy, engaging skill building activities are planned to strengthen the large muscles of the body (gross motor muscles) through climbing, balancing, running, jumping, throwing, and catching. Strong gross motor skills enable the development of fine motor skills, which are needed to hold a pencil to draw, colour, and write. Fine motor skills are developed through a variety of activities such as threading, manipulating play dough, using pegs, stretching rubber bands, or using tongs to pick up objects.

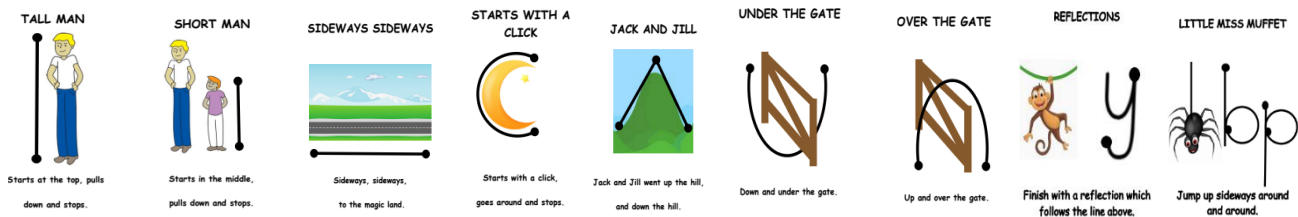


# Our Programs - continued

## Kindergarten Literacy

In Kindergarten, we use the approved early years program *Promoting Literacy Development (PLD)* to promote the strong development of oral language and phonological awareness skills such as:

- ❖ Oral speaking and listening skills (narrative focus)
- ❖ Hearing sounds in spoken words
- ❖ Rhyming: recognising and producing rhyming words
- ❖ Blending: syllables in words (com/pu/ter) and individual phonemes (c-a-t blended into 'cat')
- ❖ Segmenting: breaking a word into syllables and individual phonemes
- ❖ Recognising and writing their first name as a capital letter at the beginning and then lower case letters e.g., Freddy
- ❖ Pre-writing skills using the Peggy Lego Pre-writing Program



## Kindergarten Numeracy

A positive attitude toward mathematics begins in early childhood. The aim is to keep it fun, hands-on, using consistent language, offering a variety of strategies and presenting skills in an appropriate developmental sequence.

Kindy Numeracy skills focus on:

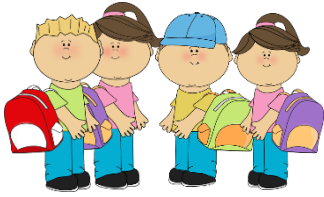
- ❖ Counting orally 0–10 (or higher if able)
- ❖ Recognising numerals 0–10
- ❖ Counting backwards from 10
- ❖ Simple addition using concrete objects
- ❖ Basic measurement skills (bigger, smaller, higher, lower)
- ❖ Days of the week
- ❖ Environmental maths- shapes, counting, colours and patterns



# Let's Get Ready for Kindy

## What to Expect

### Easing the first day jitters



Talk to your child about what to expect on their first day at Kindy.

## Let's Get Organised

### Taking the stress out of school



Label your child's belongings. Ensure their name is on the **outside** of their large bag. By making sure all the necessary items are in their bag for the day (hat, water bottle, recess container, lunch box and spare set of clothes) you will help your child have a smooth transition to Kindy.

## Practice Makes Perfect

### Making small tasks manageable

Practice opening and closing lunch boxes, containers and drink bottles. Managing these small tasks will help to increase their sense of independence.



## Arrive on Time

### Avoid the rush and plan ahead

Arrive promptly to Kindy, so that your child feels settled and is involved in the morning routine.

**Doors open at 8:45am**  
**Pick-up Time at 2:45pm**



## I Know My Name

### Giving your child confidence

Encourage your child to recognise their own name.

## Saying Goodbye

### Importance of communication

Establish a positive goodbye routine with your child early on. When it is time to leave, give one big hug, tell your child you will be back to collect them at the end of the day and say goodbye



## That's My Teacher

### Let's get to know each other

Use the teacher's name in discussions with your child, so they become familiar with it before they start Kindy.



## Home Time

### I want to know all about your day

Arrive on time to collect your child to avoid anxiety at the end of the day. Ask open-ended questions about what happened during the day.  
*What was your favourite thing you did today?*  
*What activities did you do outside?*



# Daily 'Must Haves'

## Kindy Bag

- ❖ A **large** backpack with a wide opening is best for Kindy. It should be big enough to fit all of your child's belongings and allow them easy access to pack and unpack their things.
- ❖ Please clearly label your child's bag on the **outside**. This helps staff quickly locate a child's bag if needed

## Library Bag/Take Home Bag

- ❖ The children will need to bring their red library bag/take home bag each day

## Hat

- ❖ Each child requires our school black bucket hat. Your child's hat will stay at school during their Kindy days. We are a sun safe school and require all children wear a hat when outdoors. Please apply sun cream to your child in the morning and the children will reapply it before lunch

## School Uniform

- ❖ Kindy children follow our whole school dress code by wearing our school uniform. This helps to develop a sense of pride in themselves, the school and the school community. Please send your child to school in shoes suitable for climbing. All school uniforms, hats and library bags are purchased from Lowes at Joondalup Shopping Centre <http://lowes.com.au/>

## Change of Clothes

- ❖ A complete change of **labelled** clothes will need to be provided in your child's Kindy bag, even if your child hasn't had any toileting accidents for a while. These often happen at Kindy. Please check these items from time to time for size and weather suitability

## Drink Bottle

- ❖ A labelled drink bottle containing water is required each day. Please ensure that your child can open this independently. It will be refilled during the day if needed

## Recess Container

- ❖ Could all children please have their recess in a clearly labelled **separate container** from their lunch box. This will assist the children to become independent, knowing which food to eat first



## Lunch Box

- ❖ Please provide a labelled lunch box with healthy food options that your child can open and include a freezer block to keep lunches cool. We are an allergy aware school and ask that you please save nut products for home



# Health and Wellbeing

Our priority is the happiness and wellbeing of your child. Please inform us about any changes or events in the family which may cause anxiety or concern so we can best support for them.

Children who are unwell or showing signs of infection should stay home from Kindy. This helps all the other children in the class stay healthy. It is most important that the school is notified in the event your child is unwell and will be absent from school.

If your child is unwell or will not be at school for any reason, please let the school know via the link on our web site. [Online Absence Form – Hillarys Primary \(hillarysps.wa.edu.au\)](https://hillarysps.wa.edu.au)

# General Information

## Birthdays

When celebrating your child's birthday if you would like to provide a birthday treat, we recommend individual cupcakes, which will be handed out at the end of the day. Please be mindful that the Department of Education Healthy Food and Drink policy discourages lollies and chocolates as birthday treats. Birthday invitations are to be handed out by parents to the other parent before or after school.

## Parent Roster

Rosters for classroom help will be displayed on the class notice board once the children have settled into Kindy. All parent helpers must sign in at the office and wear a visitor's sticker when helping in our classrooms.

## Library

The Kindy children will be able to borrow a library book each week from our mobile library trolley. Children must have their red library bag to borrow a book.

## Parent Representative

Your class teacher will invite parents to undertake this liaison role. Parent representatives can assist by supporting families with participation in school events, organising class social events outside of school and circulating classroom news from the class teacher to families.

## Communication Between Home and School

Personal meetings with class teachers are welcome but please note that drop off and pick up times are busy. Please email your child's teacher if you need to arrange a meeting time. Other ways we communicate with families include:



- ❖ Daily contact - face to face at pick up and drop off for a quick pass on of information
- ❖ Your child's Communication Book
- ❖ Connect or Seesaw – Our class Seesaw page where we share photos/videos about our learning
- ❖ Class notice board
- ❖ Class newsletter beginning each term
- ❖ Formal reports end of Terms 2 and 4