



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and offer our respects to the aboriginal elders of past and present.

We remember that our centre is built on traditional aboriginal land, and support knowledge, recognition and respect for Aboriginal people and culture.

Welcome

We warmly welcome you to Millville and aim to work with you to provide the best possible environment for your child and your family. We have an open-door policy and you and your family are welcome to visit our Service at any time.

Our Family Handbook provides important information you need to know to ensure the best possible start to quality education and care at Millville Children's Centre.

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Service Information

Our Service caters for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years. We are open from 7.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday, closed on Victorian public holidays. Notice will be given in our newsletters when these days occur.

We have 4 rooms:

0-2-year-old room – Possum Room

2-3-year old room - Wallaby Room

3-year-old kinder room – Echidna Room

4-year-old Kinder room – Platypus Room

Millville Children's Centre is a family owned and operated Centre, where the emphasis is learning through play at Millville we believe, 'it takes a village to raise a child' and families, educators, and children all create this village. Our environment encourages children to explore, discover and develop a sense of wonder and awe, cultivate their imaginations, creativity, knowledge, and curiosity by following their own interests and ideas. They are supported by a team of warm, nurturing, enthusiastic professionals with a passion for high quality care. The learning environment is purposefully designed to reflect a homely, inviting, friendly and secure atmosphere, which creates a strong sense of belonging. It is rich with opportunity, experiences, adventure, and challenge. We offer an indoor and outdoor program where children have a choice of where they would like to play and learn. Our outdoor areas centre around providing challenge, interest, and sustainability. Vegetable gardens, animals, creek beds, water walls, swings, sand, mud, leaves, fruit trees, climbing trees and many nooks, crannies and cubbies form part of our beautiful, natural outdoor environment, we both value and encourage family participation in all aspects of our Centre and aim to work together to provide a warm, caring, supportive and nurturing environment that meets the differing needs of your family.

Contact Information

Phone: 03 52 322 550

Fax: 03 52 316 505

Address: 23-27 Hart St Colac VIC 3250

Email: millvillecc@bigpond.com or millvilleoffice@bigpond.com

Website: www.millvillechildcare.com

Management Structure

Approved Provider: [Millville Children's Centre](#)

Person with Management & Control: [Cathy Thompson](#)

Nominated Supervisor: [Sara Vickers](#)

Educational Leader: [Sara Vickers & Cathy Thompson](#)

Compliance & OHS Representative: [Brittany Dobie-Minge](#)

Admin Officer: [Claudia Wisbey](#)

Grievances or Complaints

If you have a grievance or complaint please contact Cathy Thompson at millvillecc@bigpond.com or phone 03 52322550. Unresolved grievances or complaints will be forwarded to the regulatory authority. (see Grievance procedure)

Regulatory Authorities

Our Service is regulated by the national body for early education and care – the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) as well as the state licensing department in our State. To contact our Regulatory Authority, please refer to the contact details below:

[Department of Education –Barwon - Geelong office](#)

Ph: 1300 333 232

Postal Address: 75 High St Belmont, VIC 3216

[Quality and Regulation Division](#)

03 5215 5136

Bsw.qar@education.vic.gov.au

Our Commitment to Child Safety

Our Service is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children is maintained at all times whilst being educated and cared for by educators and staff at Millville Children's Centre. We promote a child safe environment that minimises the risk to all children in our care from all types of abuse, harm and neglect. We understand our responsibilities and statutory duty of care to adopt and comply with the National Principles of Child Safe Organisations and the Reportable Conduct Scheme to build our capacity as an organisation to prevent and respond to allegations of child abuse.

Our staff carry out their responsibilities as mandatory reporters as required by law under the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection Act 1998) and maintain up to date with knowledge of child protection law and child protection training.

Our staffs is recruited through an extensive screening process to ensure they display the right personal qualities and experiences to provide high quality supervision and care to child in addition to holding a validated Working With Children Check.

We have a zero tolerance for inappropriate behaviour towards children and any breach of child protection law. Any allegation or concern will be responded to promptly by management. We request that you contact our Director if you have any concerns.

We aim to ensure our education and care service is a tobacco, drug and alcohol-free environment at all times in accordance with Education and Care National Law and Regulations. Smoking or vaping is not permitted in or on surrounding areas of the Service by educators, staff, parents or visitors.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct establishes the standards for all employees of our Service. Employees are committed to adhere to the ethical responsibilities of early childhood professionals outlined in the Early Childhood Australia's Code of Ethics. The values that underpin our work ethic include equality, respect, integrity and responsibility.

Our Philosophy

Millville Children's Centre recognises early childhood as a very valuable stage of life. We believe in providing a welcoming, inclusive, family type environment for children to learn and develop. We recognize and acknowledge that families are the primary and most influential educators and nurturers of their child and that children's learning and development takes place in the context of families.

We support and promote children's sense of belonging by developing respectful, collaborative relationships with families. We value the uniqueness of each child and their families and believe in providing an environment which encourages the development of each child to their full potential by having high expectations for every child.

We acknowledge, incorporate, appreciate and celebrate the culture and diversity of family and people within our community. We value our own indigenous heritage and those of the wider community. We endeavour to honour the history, culture and beliefs of all families.

We believe that the role of educators is to provide a constructive, stimulating environment where positive guidance, modelling and intentional teaching make learning possible.

We view children as capable, competent co contributors and recognize their right to play and be active participants in their own learning. We believe that interactions, attachment and providing a curriculum that enhances dispositions for learning, will provide the opportunity for children to realise their own potential.

We encourage children to explore their own identity, solve problems, create, construct, communicate by creating physical environments that support a wide range of opportunities to learn. We recognise the importance of building on children's interests, strengths, abilities, cultures and home experiences through a variety of child initiated, as well as active educator play based learning.

We believe that children are able to learn and develop in a safe and supportive environment. We believe that the safety, health and wellbeing of children is of the highest priority and are committed to acting in children's best interests. We will ensure our environment and practices are always safe, consistent with best practice and legislative requirements including the Child Safe Standards.

We recognise the importance of building secure, positive relationships with children to encourage children to form a strong sense of self. We encourage children to establish friendships and learn to live interdependently with others. We strive to support children in the ways they connect to the natural environment to promote awareness of environmental and sustainable practice.

We believe in providing warm and supportive relationships to promote a strong sense of wellbeing. We

recognize that when children are involved and engaged, they will be enthusiastic participants in their learning and develop positive dispositions for lifelong learning.

We recognize and value the knowledge and commitment of educators and support all their professional learning and development. We actively encourage and provide opportunities and resources for critical reflection and evaluation to enrich decision making about children's curriculum and learning.

We believe that our philosophy statement changes as new insights are gained, practices are evaluated, or when the needs of families and educators alter.

Three Year Old Kindergarten (Echidna Room)

Your child must be 3 years of age before the 30th April to be eligible to attend our 3 year old kindergarten program.

Kanyaka Group: *Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am – 1:30pm*

Minyama Group: *Monday & Wednesday 8:30am – 4:30pm*

Extended care will be available from 7am till 6pm please see "fees" section for pricing.

School hours care is also available for children enrolled in the funded Kinder program please discuss this with the office staff.

Echidna Team of Educators

Madi Page (ECT), Angela Mahoney (ECT), Sara Vickers, Belinda Karani, Morgan Brewer

Four Year Old Kindergarten (Platypus Room)

Your child must be 4 years of age before the 30th April to be eligible to attend our 4 year old kindergarten program.

Jilaby Group Sessions: *Monday & Wednesday 8:30am – 4:30pm*

Wiminda Group Sessions: *Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am – 1:30pm*

Extended care will be available from 7am till 6pm please see "fees" section for pricing.

School hours care is also available for children enrolled in the funded Kinder program please discuss this with the office staff.

Platypus Team of Educators

Hannah Justin (ECT), Ellen Lenaghan (ECT) Hayley Bennett (ECT) Megan Turner, Keeley Hardingham. Bella Frith

Our educators and staff

Our Service is made up of a team of high-quality professional educators who are committed to and passionate about early childhood education and care. Our staff promote the human rights, safety and wellbeing of all children and consider and respect the diverse backgrounds and needs of children. We create an environment that promotes and enables children's participation and is welcoming, culturally safe and inclusive for all children and their families.

Our educators are continually evaluating how our curriculum meets the educational needs of our children and reflecting on ways to improve children's learning and development and are supported by a team of highly qualified professionals. Our educational leader and early childhood teachers guide our educators in providing quality, research based educational programs.

Our educators take into account children's learning styles, abilities, interests, linguistic and cultural diversity and family circumstances when planning and implementing learning programs. We support and respect the history and backgrounds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and aim to foster each child's sense of identity.

All staff are encouraged and supported to attend professional training and development to further their knowledge and skills.

All staff hold valid Working with Children Checks/Cards and all Responsible Persons (placed in charge of the day-to-day running of the service) have current ACECQA approved First Aid, Emergency Asthma and Anaphylaxis qualifications.

Educator to child ratios (VIC) –

We comply with the National Regulations for educator to child ratios across our Service to ensure adequate supervision is provided for all children. In accordance with the regulations, we have one educator to every 11 children (over 3 years of age) or part thereof.

National Quality Framework

Our Service complies with the Australian Government's National Quality Framework (NQF) which consists of the legislative framework of the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations, the National Quality Standard and a rigorous assessment and rating system. Our educational program and curriculum are

based on the Australian Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). We regularly self-assess our practices against the National Quality Standard and strive for continuous improvement through our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). The QIP assists our service to identify quality aspects of care we are already providing and assists in developing future goals for further improvement. Families are welcome to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Additional information about the NQF can be found at [ACECQA/nqf/about](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/about)

Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) & The Victorian Early Years Learning & Development Framework (VEYLDF)

The Frameworks guides early childhood educators, early childhood teachers and approved providers to inform educational programs and practices that emphasise play-based learning and extend and enrich children's learning and wellbeing from birth to 5 years and through the transition to school.

The EYLF was reviewed and updated and released in early 2023 to ensure the framework reflects contemporary developments in practice and knowledge while supporting educators to promote the learning, development and wellbeing of each child.

The VEYLDF is currently under review.

The vision of the EYLF is:

All children engage in learning that promotes confident and creative individuals and successful lifelong learners. All children are active and informed members of their communities with knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives. (EYLF, V2.0, p.6)

Fundamental to the EYLF is a view of children's lives as characterised by *belonging, being and becoming*. From before birth children are connected to family, community, culture and place. Their earliest development and learning takes place through these relationships, particularly within families, who are children's first and most influential educators. As children participate in everyday life, they develop interests and construct their own identities and understandings of the world.

The frameworks are made up of learning outcomes, principles and practices which educators use in their documentation of children's learning and in their reflection and planning.

BELONGING

Experiencing *belonging* – knowing where and with whom you belong – is integral to human existence. Children belong to diverse families, neighbourhoods, local and global communities. Belonging acknowledges children's

independence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identities. In early childhood, and throughout life, trusting relationships and affirming experiences are crucial to a sense of belonging. Belonging is central to being and becoming in that it shapes who children are and who they can become.

BEING

Childhood is a time to be, to seek and make meaning of the world. Childhood is a time to be, to seek and make meaning of the world. Being recognises the significance of the present, as well as the past in children's lives. It is about children knowing themselves, developing their identity and building and maintaining relationships with others, engaging with life's joys and complexities, and meeting challenges in everyday life. The early childhood years are not solely preparation for the future but also about children being in the here and now.

BECOMING

Children's identities, knowledge, understandings, dispositions, capacities, skills and relationships change during childhood. They are shaped by many different events and circumstances. *Becoming* reflects this process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as young children learn and grow. It emphasises the collaboration of educators, families and children to support and enhance children's connections and capabilities, and for children to actively participate as citizens.

The framework conveys the highest expectations for children's learning from birth to five years and through transitions to school. The expectations are communicated through the five overall learning outcomes.

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

- Children feel safe, secure, and supported
- Children develop their emerging autonomy, inter-dependence, resilience and agency
- Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities and a positive sense of self-worth
- Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation
- Children respond to diversity with respect
- Children become aware of fairness
- Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

- Children become strong in their social, emotional and mental wellbeing
 - Children become strong in their physical learning and wellbeing
- Children are aware of and develop strategies to support their own mental and physical health and personal safety

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

- Children develop a growth mindset and learning dispositions such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity
- Children develop a range of learning and thinking skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating
- Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another
- Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

- Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes
 - Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts
 - Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media
 - Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work
- Children use digital technologies and media to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking

Educational Program

We are committed to providing a developmental and educational program which caters for each child's individual needs, abilities and interests. Our educational program is delivered through an intentional, play-based pedagogy aligned to the Victorian Early Years Learning & Development Frameworks (VEYLDF) and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

Our program continues to develop as we use the relationships children have with their families and communities, working in partnership with parents, to ensure each child's knowledge, ideas, culture, abilities and interests are the foundation of our programs.

We encourage children to be responsible for their own learning through choices in experiences, interests and routine. We use conversations, actions and play as the basis for teaching which involves the children being partners in teaching by seeking out ideas, opinions, thoughts and questions. We encourage children in promoting their independence and self-help skills by assisting within the routine and involving the children in interest-based projects to further enhance their learning and knowledge. We value children and family input and encourage family involvement in order to gather a comprehensive and holistic view of the child.

We know that children learn effectively through play and educators who are diligent in their responsiveness to each child support this. Applying strong intentional teaching practices provide the children with an authentic and meaningful learning environment that challenges, supports and nurtures a child's development.

If we as educators have any areas of concern about your child's development, we will inform you and share our observations and advise of follow up assistance e.g. speech therapy. We understand this may be a sensitive topic and it is always your decision to follow up intervention. Educators are willing to discuss any aspect of learning and development with parents and support discussions with allied health professionals.

Documentation of Learning / Portfolios

Educators observe children and facilitate their learning to provide each child with a personal, online portfolio by documenting their learning throughout the year we are currently using the online platform **Educa**. This App allows educators to post online stories, goals and reflections to create a portfolio that is shared with parents and can be shared with other relatives/friends. Children's portfolio's can only be accessed via an invite from an authorised person. Our Service uses a variety of documentation to demonstrate learning which may include:

- your child's profile
- goals from families and educators
- observations- learning stories, captioned photos
- objectives for further development
- work samples- drawings, photos,
- checklists and transition statements.

The individual child's portfolio is maintained and used as a direct tool for evaluation and future planning within the Service's program. This makes the program reflect the value of individuality and is not be used as a means of comparison between peers or stereotypes. You will be given your child's portfolio as they finish at the Service. The portfolio will be used in parent/educator meetings throughout the year and is always available for you to review at your convenience.

Communication

We work in partnership with you and your family. We support and encourage communication with your child's educators about your child's unique needs and their general enjoyment of their day at our Service. Everybody has a preferred time and method of communication. Sometimes, mornings and afternoons can be a little rushed, and not the best time to discuss your child's progress. You are encouraged to talk to our Director to arrange to meet your child's educator at a mutually convenient time.

Our Service uses **Educa** to provide real time updates about your child, message board notifications for events, illness notifications and newsletters. It also has an area for policies and procedures. Parents will have access to this via an App or can be accessed through the Educa website.

We have many types of communication we use for families, including:

- Newsletters
- Phone calls
- Emails
- Letters
- Face to face
- Weekly/Monthly Reflections
- Mid-year and End of year interviews
- Formal meetings

You can email your child's room directly however this email is only monitored during educators planning time. To email rooms directly:

Echidna Room (3 Y/O Kinder) echidna.millville@gmail.com

Platypus (4 Y/O Kinder) kinder.millvill@gmail.com

Parent Participation and Feedback

Our Service has an Open-Door Policy and actively seeks and encourages families to be involved in the Service.

This can range from evaluating and adding input to your child's program and observations, volunteering within the Service and sharing skills and experiences that the children and the program will benefit from and providing feedback.

We respect that time is limited for most families and we ask that you inform us as to your preferred way of communication. We can arrange meetings with your child's educator at a time that suits you throughout the year and offer email, SMS, Newsletters, Day Book Journals and pride ourselves on strong verbal communication on a daily basis. We seek input from families on all aspects of the Service but in particular, your child's goals, observations and program.

If, for any reason you question or do not understand any aspect of the Service or your child's experience we have a *Grievance Policy* that supports all stakeholders in our community and like all policies, is available for families to consult and implement at any time. Copies of our policies are available in each foyer and website.

Enrolment Information

Enquiries are to be made to our admin or management team. Prospective families will be shown through the Centre and briefly given an explanation of the Centre's policies. Families/Guardians will be required to read through the Family Handbook and if the policies of the Centre are agreed to they will proceed with enrolling their child. If no places are available they will be placed on a waiting list. Families will be given an enrolment package that contains the Family handbook, a background information sheet, a communication plan, our Privacy Policy and an enrolment form.

Enrolment Form

If you require assistance completing the enrolment form, please contact our Nominated Supervisor or reception staff for assistance.

We will require the following documentation:

- a copy of your child's birth certificate or identity documents
- your child's Medicare number (if available)
- certified copies of any court order, parenting orders or parenting plans
- an immunisation history statement from the Australian Immunisation Register

This must show that your child is up to date with vaccinations for their age OR your child is on a recognised vaccine catch up schedule OR has a medical condition preventing them from being fully vaccinated.

Please note, the names written on the enrolment form must match the names on your child's birth certificate or identity documents.

Complying Written Agreement (CWA)

A Complying Written Agreement (CWA) is an agreement between our Service and a parent or guardian to provide childcare in exchange for fees. The CWA includes information about your child's enrolment including your child's full name and date of birth, the date the arrangement is effective from, session details and details of the fees to be charged. Before Child Care Subsidy can be paid, you must approve the enrolment information within the CWA via the [MyGov website](#).

Termination of Enrolment

Our Service has a range of policies and procedures to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children, staff, families and visitors of the Service. We reserve the right to terminate a child's enrolment if at any time a Service policy has been breached.

This may include:

- failure to comply with the enrolment contract

- disparaging, hurtful, or unsafe behaviour of a child that continues even with parent collaboration and/or support agency involvement in modifying the behaviour
- non-payment of childcare or late fees and/or recurring late payment of fees
- continuing to pick up the child past the required licensed time after consistent documented warnings
- inability to meet the child's individual needs without family support and commitment to ensure their child receives the best possible support within our Service
- deliberate impertinence towards the approved provider or staff- *Code of Conduct policy*
- if a parent knowingly brings their child ill to the Service
- consistent child-rearing style differences between the parent and provider
- false information given by a parent either verbally or in writing
- bullying and/or harassing educators, children or families enrolled at the Service- *Code of Conduct Policy*
- failure to provide AIR Immunisation History Statement or AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption form or AIR Immunisation History Form (catch up schedule)

Termination notification by service

Management or the Nominated Supervisor will advise families in writing that their child's enrolment will be terminated following all attempts to rectify any non-compliance.

Two weeks' notice will be provided to families, unless the safety and wellbeing of other children, staff or families is at risk. In this case, an immediate termination of enrolment may apply.

Any outstanding fees will be provided to families and remain due to be paid upon termination of enrolment. The initial Bond payment made on enrolment will not be refunded until any outstanding fees are paid.

Termination advised by parents

Families are advised upon enrolment of the withdrawal of enrolment conditions. Families are required to provide two (2) weeks written notice of termination of enrolment. Families will abide by the conditions set within the *Withdrawal of a Child Policy*.

Family law and access (Court orders etc.)

Our Service will uphold any responsibilities or obligations in relation to Family Law and access to the service. We require certified copies of any court order, parenting orders or parenting plans, relating to your child and request that if situations change, a copy of the Court Order is provided to our Service. We will only allow children to leave the Service with the written permission of the custodial parent/guardian. Without a Court Order we cannot stop a parent collecting a child.

Authorised Nominees

You will be requested to provide information about authorised nominees on your child's enrolment form. These are persons that you provide permission to:

- collect your child from the Service
- provide consent for medical treatment for your child from a medical practitioner, hospital or ambulance service
- provide consent for the transportation of your child by an ambulance service
- provide consent to go on an excursion.

Please understand that it is essential we have up-to-date information on your child's enrolment record in case of an emergency. It is important that you notify the Nominated Supervisor (or Responsible Person) of any changes to enrolment information including:

- your residential address
- health of your child
- telephone/mobile numbers
- contact details for any parent or authorised nominee
- family changes (parenting orders)
- emergency contact information details etc.

Authorisations

The enrolment form will include additional authorisations for our Service to seek medical treatment and emergency transportation for your child if required. Authorisations will also be requested for application of sun cream, permission to administer emergency medication to your child in the case of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency. (Ventolin or Epi-pen), permission for an educator with current first aid to administer paracetamol in an emergency and permission to access medical treatment and transport in case of an emergency.

Photographs/Google photos

As part of the enrolment process, we will also ask for your permission to take photographs and video of your child during normal activities and excursions for sharing with our parent community through Educa and google photos. Please note that we only share a selection of photos with families as we are mindful of respecting other family's privacy. Photographs and video are also used as part of our observation and programming process. Under no circumstances are photos to be shared on social media by families without the consent of parents. We ask families that take photos at Millville events such as Family Nights, possum hunt etc to be respectful of other children and families who may not wish to appear on social media.

Excursions/ Bush Kindy / Regular Outings

Excursions are an important and valuable part of learning in early education. They expose a child to a range of different experiences and help them to observe and understand the world around them. For any excursion or regular outing in our community, we will complete comprehensive risk assessments to minimise any identified risks as part of our planning for excursions. We provide parents with information about the excursion in advance and require written authorisation for each child to participate on an excursion or regular outing. Authorisation for regular transportation and regular outings will be gained once every 12 months or whenever any of the circumstances of the transport may change. Please see our *Safe Transportation Policy* for further information.

Bush Kinder Handbook- for further details

Medical conditions- Allergies, Asthma, Diabetes or Epilepsy

It is vital that we are aware of any medical condition including diabetes, epilepsy, allergies, eczema, asthma, risks of anaphylaxis of your child including any potential triggers. Families are required to indicate any allergy or asthma on the enrolment form.

Our Service requires a Medical Management Plan or Asthma/Anaphylaxis Action Plan to be completed by your General Practitioner to assist in managing your child's needs. This needs to be provided prior to your child's commencement at the Service. In consultation with the service, you will be asked to develop a Risk Minimisation Plan and Communication Plan to assist our educators and staff. Any prescribed medication that your child may require must be provided each day they attend our Service.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of your child, please update your child's Medical Management Plan/ Action Plan every 12-18 months or whenever a change in their medication or treatment occurs. (Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy) (ASCIA).

Inclusion of all children

If your child has a disability, please speak to our Nominated Supervisor prior to enrolment.

We provide a supportive and inclusive environment that allows each child to fully participate in quality education and care.

We aim to develop and sustain supportive relationships with families and encourage discussions about how we can support your child to have equitable access to resources and participation. If your child has a National

Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) package, we may need your consent to make contact with services and/or therapists who are working with your child to seek information regarding their learning plan to support continuity of learning.

Our Service may be able to apply for additional support through the Inclusion Support Program (ISP) to assist your child's access.

Permanent and Casual Bookings

Permanent bookings are an ongoing booking that:

- remains the same from one week to the next
- must remain unchanged for a minimum of 3 weeks
- are chargeable regardless of attendance (except for Kinder funded days over school holidays)
- are required to be confirmed for the following year by responding to letters of offer that are put out by the service each August.
- **Kinder bookings** (funded days only) will not be charged during school holidays if children are not attending. If you require care for your child on their booked days over the holidays this can be indicated to office staff and fees will be charged at Long Day Care rate. NB This is a higher rate than Kinder fees. Permanent childcare days (not covered by kinder funding) will be charged over school holidays regardless of attendance.

NB: Holiday rates **do not** apply to children during the school term for Kinder Funded bookings.

Casual bookings are one off bookings that:

- can be booked at the last minute for emergency care. This is provided that we have vacancies. If there is no vacancy, we will put your child on a casual waiting list and will contact you if a vacancy becomes available
- are designed to support families taking on casual work and shift work
- can be cancelled at no cost, provided 24-hour notice via email is given
- will be charged at a Long Day Care Rate
- cannot be "swapped" with a permanent booked day and will be charged as an additional day.

Waiting list

Casual waiting list: We will create a casual waiting list for casual bookings that have been requested for a session that we are at capacity. If positions become available, we will allocate them in order of application whilst adhering to recommendations of Priority of Access.

Permanent waiting list: If you would like to increase your child/ren's permanent sessions but there are no permanent vacancies, your child/ren will be placed on a waiting list until a position becomes available. Positions will be allocated in order of application, whilst adhering to our Priority of Access process.

Fees, Rebates, and Attendance

Government Funding and Eligibility

The Department of Education (DE) provides per capita funding as a contribution towards the costs of the four-year-old kindergarten program for each eligible child who is enrolled in the year before school. To be eligible the child must be at least four years old on 30 April in the year of enrolment, enrolled for at least 15 hours per week or 600 hours per year and not enrolled at a funded kindergarten program at another service.

Income from other sources, primarily fees, is required to meet all the additional costs incurred by the service in the delivery of the children's program.

DE only fund 1 year of 3-year-old Kinder and 1 year of 4 year old /year before school Kindergarten. Funding for second year of kindergarten is available only to children who have delays in at least 2 key areas of development and would benefit from a second year of kindergarten, as determined by an early childhood teacher.

DE requires that funded services have a comprehensive written fees policy in place, and the content of this policy must be communicated to families. The policy must include a written statement about the fees to be charged, as required under Regulation 168(2)(n), and the payment process. All families must be informed of applicable term and annual fees at the time of enrolment.

Free Kinder funding (2023)

Free Kinder supports families to access a funded kindergarten program by:

- providing a free 15-hour program to 3 & 4-year-old children enrolled at a sessional service
- offsetting the funded kindergarten program component of parent fees for 3 and 4-year-old children enrolled at a long day care service.

Fees

At Millville we are committed to providing responsible financial management of the service, this includes establishing a fee structure that will be financially viable for the service while keeping our fees as low as possible to allow access for all children in a high quality setting. We are committed to having a fair and manageable system to deal with non-payment and outstanding debts and ensure that there are no financial barriers for families wishing to access and early childhood program for their child. We will advise families about program funding, including government support and fees to be paid by the family.

Our fees are calculated according to the yearly expenditure of the Centre. We have a funded four-year-old kindergarten, and the funding will be used to subsidise fees. We use the Centre Based Care CCS funding. We will be charging kindergarten fees for terms only (no fees will be charged in school holidays) You may book in for holiday care, however this cannot be used in conjunction funded Kinder hours.

Fees will be charged for booked days whether your child attends the Centre or not. This includes public holidays, sick days and rostered days off.

\$87 Long day Kinder Session (8:30am – 4:30pm)

\$68 Half Day Kinder Session (8:30am – 1:30pm)

\$105 for sessional Kinder with care provided before/after kinder.

\$100 School hours Kinder (sessional kinder with care after until 3.30pm)

\$112 for long day Kinder with care provided before/after kinder.

Fees must always be kept up to date.

(Please note fees are subject to change with 4 weeks' notice given)

Bush Kinder – There is a small fee for bush kinder for those children who attend to cover the cost of transportation to and from the location, this is charged each term the child attends bush kinder.

Kinder Enrolment Eligibility

In accordance with the DT *Kindergarten Funding Guide*, the following children are eligible for one year of funded kindergarten. Children must not be enrolled at a funded kindergarten program at another service.

To be eligible for Four-Year-Old Kindergarten the child must be:

- at least 4-years-old on 30 April of the year in which they are enrolled to attend the funded Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program (unless they have applied for early entry to kindergarten – refer to page 61)
- enrolled for at least 15 hours per week or 600 hours per year
- not be enrolled in a funded kindergarten place at another service.

Children who will turn 6 in their first or second year of kindergarten may be eligible for per capita funding if they meet the requirements for an exemption from school. See Exemption from school on page 60.

To be eligible for Three-Year-Old Kindergarten the child must be:

- at least 3-years-old on 30 April of the year in which they are enrolled to attend the funded kindergarten program (please see page 51 on minimum age of attendance)
- enrolled for between 5 and 15 hours per week
- not be enrolled in a funded kindergarten place at another service.

Service providers are required to collect information from parents, carers or legal guardians at the time of enrolment, which should be kept with the child's enrolment record and used when completing the annual confirmation data collection process.

Service providers are required to:

- record the accurate name, address and date of birth of each child. This may include:
 - birth certificate
 - passport
 - travel document for non-Australian born children
 - Immicard.

Where the child does not have a birth certificate, please refer to page [48 of the Kindergarten handbook](#) for alternative options.

- enrol the child using the name stated on the identification document. This should not be changed without the consent of both parents or by direction of a court order.
- record information about the child, including:
 - the date the child commenced the funded kindergarten program
 - if the child is a 3 or 4-year-old enrolment
 - the child's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status
 - if the child is known to Child Protection
 - if the child is living in out-of-home care
 - the child's country of birth
 - the child's immunisation status
 - the main language spoken at home (if not English)
 - if the child or family has had a refugee or asylum seeker experience
 - if the child is attending a second year of funded kindergarten
 - if the child needs a high level of assistance with core activities as a result of ongoing disability or health condition
 - if the family have requested early entry to school
 - if the child has been exempted from attending school.
- for children eligible for the ESK grant, provide information about whether the child's parents, carers or legal guardians have given permission to share information from and with Maternal and Child Health Service
- record information about the child's parents, carers or legal guardians including:
 - education, qualification and occupation
 - country of birth
 - year of arrival in Australia if born overseas.

Priority of Access Criteria

In instances where more eligible children apply for a place at our service for kindergarten, we must follow the priority access guidelines as below and work with other local kindergarten services and the regional Departmental offices to ensure all eligible children have access to a place.

- children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children in out-of-home care
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children
- Asylum seeker and refugee children
- children eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (Commonwealth health care cards or veteran's affairs card, or multiple birth children- triplets, quadruplets)
- children with additional needs
- Millville Children's centre will then prioritise children with a demonstratable link to the service i.e. a sibling that currently attends and families with sole parent in paid employment or both parents in paid employment.

The Approved Provider will ensure:

- a child's eligibility for kindergarten fee subsidy is discussed with families

- before confirming a child's enrolment, families must present an immunisation history statement as evidence that the child
 - is fully vaccinated for their age
 - is on a recognised catch-up schedule if the child has fallen behind with their vaccinations or
 - has a medical reason not be vaccinated
- our kindergarten program is planned and delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher for at least:
 - 15 hours per week for 40 weeks of the year, or 600 hours per year.
- Early Childhood Teachers are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT)
- graduate teachers are provisionally registered with the VIT and provided with support of a mentor to help them achieve Proficient Teacher level of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers
- all staff and educators hold current and checked Working With Children Checks (WWCC)
- they have read each person's WWCC before engaging educators, staff and volunteers
- the program delivered to children adheres to the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework and operates in accordance with Child Safe Standards at all times.

Invoices & Statement of fees

Each fortnight we will send you an invoice via email before your weekly debit. Please check these invoices to ensure all details are correct and accurate. If there is any discrepancy, please contact the office as soon as possible.

Statements of fees are issued monthly via email, please check these statements to ensure all your details are correct.

Payment methods

Parents/guardians are encouraged to complete a Direct Debit form upon enrolment. Fees will be deducted fortnightly.

Please note that additional charges will apply for any failed transactions as a result of insufficient funds.

Alternatively, you can pay your account with an online bank transfer.

No Cash is kept on the premises.

Fees in arrears/ Financial Support

We are committed to having a fair and manageable system to deal with non-payment and outstanding debts and ensure that there are no financial barriers for families wishing to access and early childhood program for their child. We will advise families about program funding, including government support and fees to be paid by the family.

If fees are outstanding after two weeks, we will impose a late payment fee of (\$5.00)

Should fees still be outstanding after three weeks, a debt recovery process will be implemented and additional (\$5.00) late fee added to your account. Millville Children's Centre reserves the right to suspend/withdraw your child's enrolment if your account is overdue after 4 weeks.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, please speak to the Nominated Supervisor or Director. Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) may be available to support your family. We may be able to organise a payment plan before your fees go into arrears.

Child Care Subsidy (CCS)

Child Care Subsidy offers assistance to families to help with the cost of child care aged 0-13 years. There are 3 factors that will determine a family's level of Child Care Subsidy, which include:

- [Combined annual family income](#)
- [Activity test](#) – the activity level of both parents
- [Service type](#) – type of child care service and whether the child attends school

You may be exempt from having to meet the activity test if you meet one of the following. You:

- are temporarily outside Australia for up to a maximum of 6 weeks
- have disability or medical condition that stops you from working
- get [Carer Payment](#)
- provide constant care for a child or adult with a disability or medical condition
- are in prison or psychiatric confinement.
- you'll be exempt if you or your partner are the principal carer of a grandchild or great grandchild. The exemption will only apply to that child. This means you can get 100 hours of subsidised care per fortnight for your grandchild or great-grandchild.
- when your child attends early education such as Kindergarten you may be exempt.

If your child attends an early education program, such as preschool, you may be exempt. If you're exempt you'll have access to 36 hours of subsidised care per fortnight. You'll be exempt if all of the following apply:

- you're entitled to less than 36 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight
- you have a child in an early educational program, such as preschool or kindergarten
- it's the year before your child starts [primary school](#)
- it's a centre-based day care service - this is long day care and occasional care.

When you experience exceptional circumstances

You may be exempt if you're facing circumstances that impact your ability to either:

- do recognised activities
- care for your child.

For example, you may be exempt if you're affected by [family and domestic violence](#) or experiencing serious illness.

Families who wish to receive Child Care Subsidy as reduced fees must apply through the [myGov](#) website. This includes completing the Child Care Subsidy activity test. Child Care Subsidy is paid directly to our Service to be passed on to families as a fee reduction. Families will contribute to their childcare fees and pay the difference between the fee charged by our Service and the subsidy amount received. This is called the 'gap fee'.

On enrolment we will need the Customer Reference Number (CRN) of the person linked with the child, along with the child's CRN so we can confirm the attendance and ensure that you are receiving the appropriate subsidy.

Note that CCS cannot be used in conjunction with the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy.

For more information visit <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy>

Department of Education (DE) Payment/Funding

A large variety of funding is available to early childhood services, including but not limited to:

- Early Start Kindergarten grant for children who are at least 3 years old before 30 April in the year they are enrolled to attend the program and are:
 - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander or
 - known to Child Protection or referred to CHILD FIRST
 - have refugee or Asylum Seeker status
- Early Start Extension Grant
- Early Childhood Teacher Supplement (ECTS)
- Early childhood language program

Details of all funding available and eligibility can be found at

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/funding/Pages/default.aspx>

Inclusion Support and Access

The Kindergarten Inclusion Support Program (KIS) is available to support the participation of children in quality kindergarten programs in line with the National Quality Framework and the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework. Support is available through the KIS disability and complex medical needs programs.

The programs are to support access and participation for children with:

- a disability or developmental delay

- high support medical needs or
- complex medical needs

This support is in addition to other funding that the child may be receiving.

Children with developmental concerns may also be eligible for the Preschool Field Officer Program (PSFO) to support the access and participation of children with additional needs in the kindergarten program.

Further information about the KIS and PSFO program can be found at:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/professionals/needs/Pages/kinderinclusion.aspx>

School Readiness Funding

School Readiness Funding will support children in all funded kindergarten services in Victoria from 2021. It will be available in all kindergarten settings, including long day care, and for both three and four-year-old children in funded kindergarten programs in line with the roll-out of two years of funded kindergarten.

The amount of School Readiness Funding each service receives is based on the level of need of children enrolled at the service. This is informed by parental occupation and education data (Student Family Occupation and Education data or SFOE) as this is considered an accurate predictor of educational disadvantage. Similarly, parental occupation and education data is used in schools to allocate 'needs-based' funding.

Funding for each service ranges between \$1,000 for kindergartens with low levels of need and/or small enrolment numbers of children, to more than \$200,000 for kindergartens with high levels of need and large enrolment numbers.

It is important that kindergarten services accurately collect parents' occupation and education information each year as part of the enrolment process. Service providers are required to enter this into the Kindergarten Information Management system as part of annual confirmation in August.

This information is necessary for the Department to understand the educational needs of children and services across Victoria, and determine how funding will be allocated in future years.

2nd Year of Funded Kindergarten

A second year of funded pre-school will only be available for children whose development is assessed as requiring a second year. Recommendations in relation to a child's eligibility for a second year of funded kindergarten will be made through a Department of Education and Early Childhood development regional assessment process.

If a child withdraws by the end of Term 1 they will be eligible for another year of funded kindergarten.

Absences

We encourage families to notify the Service as soon as possible if your child will be absent for any day or session you have booked. It is recommended that absences are notified to the Service by email or through our app.

Child Care Subsidy will be paid for any absence from an approved child care service your child attends for up to 42 days per child per financial year. Additional absences beyond 42 days may be approved for specific reasons with supporting documentation. Please talk to us about additional absences.

You can access your child's absence record on your online statement by selecting '[View Child Care Details and Payments](#)' on your [Centrelink online account](#). You can also do this using the [Express plus Families mobile app](#)

Public holidays will be counted as an absence if your child would normally have attended the Service on that weekday, and fees have been charged for that day for your child.

If your child has not attended our Service for 14 continuous weeks, your child's enrolment will be cancelled, and Centrelink will stop paying your CCS subsidy.

Service Closing Time and Late Collection Fees

Please be aware our Service and program closes at 6:00pm. In accordance with National Regulations and licensing, we are not permitted to have children in the service after 6:00pm. A late fee is incurred for children collected after 6.00pm.

The fee is \$15 per child for every 15 minutes or part thereof and will be added to your next account. The late fee is strictly adhered to, as two staff members are required to remain at the Service until all children are collected.

If we are unable to contact either the parent or a person nominated by the parent on the enrolment form to arrange collection of the child/children within an hour of the Service closing, we may need to contact the Police or other authorities to take responsibility of your child.

Service Policies and Procedures

you will find a copy of our Service policies and procedures on our website or a hard copy is available to view in our 3 year old kinder foyer. We expect our staff and families to adhere to our policies and procedures at all times to ensure we maintain compliance and abide by the National Law and National Regulations.

Educators cannot make exceptions for individuals unless the Nominated Supervisor or Management do so on account of serious and/or unusual circumstances.

We are constantly reviewing our policies and procedures and ask for staff and family participation to ensure our policies and procedures adhere to the needs of our families and meet required regulations. Your involvement helps us to improve our Service and may lead us to change our policies and procedures. If you have any feedback on our policies and procedures, please complete a Policy Feedback form available in all foyers or on our website.

Arrival and Departure

Each day, you must sign your child in upon arrival and sign out upon departure, we use Electronic Sign In (ESI) on the iPads provided in foyer areas. Each authorised parent, guardian or nominee is required to set up an individual pin number to use to sign the child in and out under their own name.

Parents/guardians and nominees are not to share their personal pin with anyone. We are required by legislation to maintain our attendance record at all times. This record may be used in the event of an emergency situation at the Service.

Our staff have a duty of care to your child and will only allow your child to be released into the care of either a parent, guardian or an authorised nominee as listed on your child's enrolment record. If your child needs to be collected by another person for some reason, an authority to collect form must be provided in writing to the Nominated Supervisor. Our staff may ask to view photo identification of the adult collecting your child from care to confirm their identity.

The first day/week

The first day in a new service is a big step for you and your child. Please don't be alarmed if your child experiences some separation anxiety. This is normal and our experienced educators will assist you and your child through this transition period. We encourage parents to stay as long as they like during the morning drop off to help your child settle into an activity. There may be tears and extra

tight hugs when saying goodbye for the first few weeks but there are always cuddles, reassurance and genuine care from educators for both the children and their families. Sometimes this experience is upsetting more so for the family, not the child. We understand this and offer support through phone calls during the day, photos and open communication.

Saying goodbye

Ideally, your child will be settled at an activity before you leave, however some children find it hard to settle until their parents have gone. What works best is a set routine so try to establish the care routine from the orientation process. Being well organised and avoiding a rush usually results in a calm start to the day.

Most children will want to have a look around first to see who else has arrived and to look at what activities are available. Please tell your child when you are leaving as they may become upset if they haven't had the opportunity to say goodbye. This will gain trust from the child, not only in you but in the educator, who is reassuring your child about their day and when you will return. Rest assured, we'll contact you if your child becomes distressed.

What you need to bring

BACKPACK

For independence, we work towards all children being able to recognise and open their own bag. You can help by allowing them to be involved in selecting their bag and taking ownership of it. Please ensure it is large enough to hold all their belongings and is clearly labelled.

SPARE CLOTHING

Every now and then, accidents occur, and it may be necessary for your child to get changed into a fresh set of clothes. Please include a complete change of clothes every day which can stay in your child's bag...just in case! Please ensure your child's clothing is clearly named. Any lost property will be located in the foyer.

DRINK BOTTLE

A labelled drink bottle is required every day for water. Children are able to refill their drink bottle when necessary throughout the day. We always provide water and cups, but a drink bottle is a great start to school readiness.

SUN HAT

A protective sun hat (either broad brimmed or legionnaire hat) must be worn every day when playing outside for protection against the sun. Please make sure to include it in your child's bag every day or it can be kept at Millville regardless of the weather conditions.

FOOD BROUGHT FROM HOME

Any food brought from home needs to be signed in and handed to an Educator (please do not leave food in children's bag). We also encourage healthy and nutritious foods only. In term 4 children will have a lunch box day in preparation for school (4 Year old program only), more information will be sent out in term 3.

Meals

Our Service promotes healthy eating habits and provides delicious and nutritious food for your child each day. We provide a nutritionally balanced morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and late snack. We follow the Australian Dietary Guidelines to ensure our meals are prepared to meet the dietary requirements for all children. Our menu is carefully planned and prepared by a qualified cook.

We cater for the dietary requirements of all children enrolled at our Service. Please discuss your child's special requirements, allergies and any other medical conditions with the nominated supervisor.

Clothing -What to wear

It is helpful to your child if they are dressed in non- restrictive, serviceable and easy to wash clothes so that they feel free to join in all the activities and to develop independence. Shoes also, need to allow children freedom to run, climb, hop and jump as well as being easy for the child to take off and put on by themselves. Joggers and sandals are appropriate shoes to wear.

Thongs and slippers are not suitable, and we prefer that these are NOT worn to the Service. Also, please consider clothing that enables the child to move around easily and allows children to be independent in dressing. Clothing such as long dresses, overalls, braces, belts and stiff buttons can prove a problem for children who need to go to the toilet. We require all t-shirts to have sleeves (no mid-drift tops) and hats that are broad brimmed are essential for effective sun safety.

Toys

The Service has an abundance of toys and we ask that children do not bring in toys from home. This eliminates toys getting lost, broken, disappointment for other children and responsibility on educators to track numerous toys throughout the day.

Behaviour Guidance

We encourage children to engage in cooperative and pro-social behaviour. We give children the opportunity to self-regulate their behaviours during play to develop their confidence and self-esteem. Educators follow a *Behaviour Guidance Policy* that extends across the whole Service giving consistency of expectation in all rooms. We use a positive approach to guiding children's behaviour to help them develop a respect for others, for property and respect for self. If you require further information on this policy, please ask educators and refer to our Policy manual.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing is more than just feeling happy, it is about our overall health- physical, social, emotional and mental.

We provide opportunities for your child to develop a strong sense of wellbeing through dance, movement, yoga, mindfulness, music and relaxation.

Physical Play

Physical play includes activities that use physical movements to allow children to use their energy, enhance their concentration, motivation, learning and wellbeing. We feel physical play is a vital part of everyday life. We believe in providing children with a range of physical activities and experience on a daily occurrence for them to challenge their large and small muscles, allowing them to gain increasing control over their bodies as they learn the importance of physical play.

Physical play provides children with the opportunity to:

- develop strong bones and muscles
- improve strength and balance
- develop Flexibility and coordination
- develop Fundamental Movement Skills
- develop spatial awareness
- develop mathematical concepts
- be confident as they learn to control their bodies and understand their limits
- learn to cooperate and share with others
- promote healthy growth and development

Sustainability

Our Service is passionate about sustainability. We believe in supporting children to appreciate and care for the environment by embedding sustainable practice into the daily operation of our Service, infrastructure and teaching.

In order to empower our sustainability program, we emphasise children's ability to make a difference, enabling them to learn and appreciate their environment in an engaging, fun and exciting manner. We do this by engaging children in discussion about sustainable practice, encouraging them to participate in a recycling program, reducing energy and conserving water. We aim to provide children with the skills and knowledge required to become environmentally responsible.

Birthdays

It is very exciting for a child to be having a birthday. Due to food allergies, intolerances, and restrictions we can only accommodate cakes for celebrations if this is pre organised with the Educators in your child's room. Cakes must be purchased from a registered kitchen (i.e supermarket) with original label with ingredients and expiry date. Please see our Celebrations policy for further information.

Family Walls

We have a *Family Wall* in each of our rooms. This is a strong and valuable tool in our environment for your child to connect to, feel that they and their family are valued and that their family is as much a part of the Service, even if they are not always there. If you would like to bring in a photo, or a couple of photos that represent your family, we would love to add it to our wall.

Sun Safety

Our Service implements a combination of sun protection measures to always ensure the health and safety of your child. We monitor the UV index levels daily, our outdoor environment provides shade for play experiences, and we conduct regular risk assessments to ensure the play space and equipment is safe for children.

Children and educators must wear hats and appropriate clothing, including footwear when outside. Educators will encourage children, including by way of modelling behaviour, to avoid excessive exposure to the sun and to wear suitable sunscreen (at least SPF 30+), which is reapplied according to the manufacturer's recommendations. We ask that children come to the Service with sunscreen already applied so they are able to participate in outdoor play immediately and not have to wait the 20 minutes after application. Consent to apply sunscreen is included in our enrolment form.

Family involvement

We welcome and encourage the involvement of all parents/families at our Service. Your ideas, experiences and skills are greatly valued and will enable us to extend each child's interests, abilities and knowledge. There are many ways for your family to be involved. We understand that our busy lives can't always afford the time, however any contribution no matter how big or small is much appreciated. Here are just a few ideas.

Your occupation or hobby

You are the most important person in their world. We welcome all parents to the Service to talk about their occupation or hobby (e.g. music, craft, cooking). Everything parents do interest children and these talks are the best educational resources you can provide for the Service.

We use information that has come from discussions about occupations and hobbies in our program and the ideas explored which can turn into interest projects providing valuable learning.

Your home culture

We aim to foster relationships among families and community and invite you to share aspects of your culture, history, language and celebrations with our Service. Your involvement greatly assists us to enrich the lives of all our families and children.

Recyclable items

We are always on the lookout for recyclable items for the rooms. Empty food containers, ribbons, wrapping paper, towel tubes (not toilet or egg or milk because of hygiene and allergy issues) paper or anything interesting from your work is much appreciated. We also appreciate donations of your empty bread bags to use for wet or soiled clothing.

Family Helpers

We have a family roster to help with kindergarten sessions. You will need to have a WWCC and attend a helper meeting to be able to work with the children in a session.

Special events

Our Service organises special events throughout the year. We will communicate these to families in a timely manner. An events calendar is communicated early in the year with times and dates of major events throughout the year. We encourage parent input in all aspects of these events. Some of these include fundraising, celebrations and information sessions.

Suggestions

Parents are welcome to visit or call the Service at any time. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how we best can work together in the Service, please let us know.

If you have any concerns, please see your child's educator or the Director. We have a grievance procedure if you would like to formally raise any concerns.

Community Information

We have a community notice board at the entry to our Service. This board is used to display relevant programs, menus, notices, updates and reminders for children and families. Please ensure you check this on a regular basis.

Our staff can also provide information for families about a range of topics including early intervention; supported playgroups; Child Care Subsidy; Aboriginal Child and Family centres; health clinics.

Health and Hygiene

Our Service has effective and systematic risk management systems in place to identify any possible risk of hazards to our learning environment and practices. All staff diligently practice and model personal hygiene measures such as hand washing, cough and sneeze etiquette and disposal of tissues. We request that all children and visitors to our service wash their hands or use the alcohol-based hand sanitiser upon arrival.

Our educators teach and model correct hand washing techniques to children and regularly clean and disinfect high touch objects throughout the service to reduce the spread of infection.

When should I not send my child to the Service?

Our Service is a busy and demanding day for the bodies and minds of our children. We are not equipped to care for sick children; however, we will do everything we can to comfort a child who has become sick whilst in our care.

To minimise the spread of infections and diseases, and maintain a healthy environment for all children, educators and staff, we implement recommendations developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)- *Staying Healthy in Childcare*. Our policies and procedures for *Sick Children* and the *Control of Infectious Diseases* are available for all families to view.

Please monitor your child's health and do not bring your child to the Service if they are suffering from an infectious disease/illness or are generally unwell.

If your child becomes ill whilst at the Service, we will contact you or an authorised nominee to collect your child. If your child is unable to be collected, educators will contact the child's emergency contact for collection. When your child is collected, you will be provided with an *Injury, Incident, Trauma and Illness Record* completed by the educator which includes information about your child's illness, their symptoms, general behaviour and any action taken. You will be requested to sign and acknowledge the details in this record.

Your child should not attend the Service within 24 hours of have a temperature (38degrees or above) or have had paracetamol due to a high temperature. Children who are on antibiotics are to be kept away from the

Service for the first 24 hours to allow the child to rest and the risk of spreading the infection to decrease. If your child has been vomiting or had diarrhoea, they will be excluded for 48 hours. For certain illnesses, a medical clearance certificate may be required before your child returns. Children with symptoms of covid-19 will not be able to attend care until well.

Infectious Diseases

The National Health and Medical Research Council have supplied the following information regarding minimum exclusion period for children from an early childhood education and care service. Please inform staff if your child has any of the following so that we can notify the Public Health Unit and other families of any infectious disease/illness. (Confidentiality is always maintained).

Recommended exclusion periods- Poster Staying Healthy: Preventing Infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services

CONDITION	EXCLUSION
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Until all blisters have dried
HIB	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before 7 days after the onset of jaundice or illness
Herpes- Cold sores	Young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded while the lesion is weeping. Lesions to be covered by dressing, where possible
Influenzas and flu-like illnesses	Exclude until well
Measles	Exclude for at least 4 days after onset of rash
Meningitis (Bacterial)	Exclude until well
Meningococcal Infection	Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed
Mumps	Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Exclude the child for 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of rash
Salmonella	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases
Streptococcal Infection (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the child feels well
Tuberculosis	Exclude until a medical certificate from an appropriate health authority is received
Worms (intestinal)	Exclude if diarrhoea present

If your child is unimmunised according to our records, then they will be excluded until the threat has passed and upon advice of the Public Health Unit

Immunisation

The Public Health Act 2010 requires all families to provide an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) for their child prior to enrolment in an early childhood education and care service. The immunisation history statement must show that each enrolled child is up to date with immunisations for their age.

The relevant vaccinations are those under the National Immunisation Program (NIP), which covers the vaccines usually administered before age five. These vaccinations must be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

The only unimmunised children who can be enrolled in childcare (after 1 January 2018) are those who are on a recognised catch-up schedule or those who are unimmunised due to medical reasons as described in the Australian Immunisation Handbook. Parents must provide an AIR Immunisation History Form or an AIR Immunisation Medical Exemption Form upon enrolment.

In the case of an outbreak of any vaccine preventable disease, management will contact families as soon as possible. We ask that families immediately inform our Service if someone in their family is diagnosed with an infectious disease to help minimise the risk to other children, families, and educators.

We are legally required to notify the Public Health Unit of any cases of vaccine preventable diseases occurring at our Service. For an up-to-date immunisation schedule, please refer to your enrolment pack.

Medication

If your child requires medication whilst at our Service, you must complete an *Administration of Medication Record* to give your consent for an educator to administer prescribed medication to your child. Medication must be given to directly to an educator for appropriate safe storage. Panadol can be administered to children in an emergency with authorisation from parent/guardian or authorised person on enrolment record, however the child must be collected from the services within 30 minutes of administration.

Educators can only administer medication that is:

- prescribed by a registered medical practitioner (with instructions attached to the medication or in written form from the medical practitioner)
- in its original packaging and have the original label clearly showing your child's name
- before the expiry/use by date.

Upon collection of your child at the end of the day, you or an authorised person will be requested to sign the *Administration of Medication Form*.

Incidents, injury, or trauma

We aim to minimise the risk of accidents and injury as much as possible however, through play, exploration and adventure, children sometimes have accidents. We always have an educator with a First Aid, emergency asthma, anaphylaxis management and CPR qualification on shift always we provide education and care to children. First Aid kits are located throughout the Service.

In the event of a minor injury, first aid will be provided as required. An *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record* will be completed and when you collect your child, you will be notified about the injury and asked to acknowledge and sign the record. If your child injures their head, even if it is a small bump, you will be contacted to advise you of the injury. Our educators will continue to monitor your child closely and advise if you should come and collect them.

If an injury or incident is serious and we believe urgent medical attention is required, the Nominated Supervisor will contact you immediately. If we cannot contact a parent or guardian, we will attempt to contact an authorised nominee for consent. Where you or your authorised nominee cannot be contacted, we may call an ambulance. If you are unable to meet the ambulance at the Service, we will send one of our educators/staff members to accompany your child in the ambulance.

Please note that Ambulance cover is the responsibility of each family.

An *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record* will be completed, and a parent will be required to acknowledge and sign this record. A copy of any documentation from the hospital or treating doctor will also be requested. Our Service will also be required to notify the Regulatory Authority in the event of any serious incident or injury. In these circumstances, you may be contacted by our Approved Provider and the Regulatory Authority to follow up the incident and actions taken by our Service.

Safety in our Service

Emergency and evacuation procedures

Our Service conducts risk assessments regularly and develops emergency management plans for a range of possible hazards. Throughout the year we follow our policies and procedures to carry out emergency and evacuation drills. These may occur at any given time throughout the day and week to ensure all children know what to do in case of an emergency. Emergency and evacuation drills are carried out in a well-organised and orderly manner and will simulate a range of possible emergency situations such as fire (bush fire), lock down or flood. Under regulations, we are required to practice emergency and evacuation drills every three months.

Educators are trained to use the fire extinguishers that are in the Service. An emergency evacuation plan and lock down procedure are displayed in every room and exit locations are clearly indicated.

Drop off and pick up time

Early childhood education and care services are busy places especially during the morning drop off and afternoon pickup. We ask that parents be extremely mindful of danger when arriving and departing from our Service.

- Please always hold your child's hand in carpark area or near the street
- Be alert of reversing drivers in the car park as it is very difficult to see small children
- Use the kerbside, rear passenger door when getting your child into and out of their restraint
- Never leave a child or infant in the car unattended
- Never leave the front entry door/gate open
- Always do a visual check around your vehicle before driving
- Please ensure children do not enter areas in the Service that are for adults/staff only.

Parking is provided directly in front of the service (this is 15-minute parking). We ask that you refrain from parking in the driveways to carpark and 21 Hart St or on nature strips. We also appreciate you refraining from parking on the south of Farrington St as these houses do not have driveways and require access to the front of their houses.

Workplace Health and Safety

We are committed in providing an environment that is safe and healthy for every employee, volunteer, child, family, and visitor. We have made every reasonable effort to minimise the risk of serious injury and request all persons to our Service to adhere to our policies regarding Workplace Health and Safety.

Each morning, our educators conduct daily safety checks of the indoor and outdoor environment and will alert management of any potential risk or hazard to children to ensure this is rectified before children use the equipment or area.

We welcome all feedback regarding the safety of our Service. If you see something that concerns you regarding safe work practices, the safety of building and equipment or general work health and safety issues, please contact the Nominated Supervisor immediately.

Social Media

At Millville we have decided not to use social media such as Facebook to share information. We also appreciate that families do not share photos from Millville containing other children on social media.

Privacy and Confidentiality

We are committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of children, individuals and families and have policies in place to ensure strict confidentiality is maintained.

To plan programs for your child/ren, we need to collect information from you. This information helps us to assess and plan programs in partnership with you. We do not disclose personal information about you or your child to other people or organisations without your consent unless we are required to do so by law. We do not ask for personal information about you or your child from other professionals or organisations without your consent. You can look at the information in your child's file at any time or request a copy of information in the file.

Our *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy* is available to view at any time. This policy sets out how we ensure our Service acts in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Privacy Principles and the Privacy Act 1988. We ensure all personal information is protected, records and documents are maintained and stored in accordance with Education and Care Services National Regulations and that all staff understand the requirements of the Notifiable Data Breaches (NDB) scheme. Any Privacy complaints will be managed promptly and in a consistent manner as outlined in our *Grievance Policy*.

Our Service is required to keep and maintain detailed records about children, parents and staff in accordance with relative legislation contained in the National Law and Regulations and Family Assistance Law. We ensure all records are stored in a secure and locked location. We must keep records for the prescribed periods of times as legislated related to child enrolment, attendance, medication records, incident, injury, trauma and illness records, child assessments and any relevant legal information/documents. Full details about record keeping is available in our *Record Keeping and Retention Policy*.

Grievance Procedure

If parents have a concern regarding the care of their child, this should be discussed with either the staff member in charge of the room or the Director.

If a parent has a complaint or comment about the service, they will be encouraged to talk to the Director/Primary Nominee or Nominees who will arrange a time to discuss their concern and come to a resolution to address the issue.

The Director will meet with the parties involved and discuss what has been decided regarding the issue, within a week of the complaint. Staff will also be informed of any relevant issues that they need to address or be aware of.

If the issue is not resolved in the discussion between the Director and parent then the Director will develop a strategy for resolving the problem, in conjunction with any parties involved.

The Director or Primary Nominee may contact the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to discuss the complaint.

The Director/Primary Nominee will look at calling in a mediator or specialist if the problem cannot be resolved.

The complaint will be recorded and dated indicating the issue of concern and how it was resolved.

The Director, Cathy Thompson, can be contacted personally, by letter or by phone on 52 322550 or 0402390780. The Primary Nominee can be contacted personally by letter or by phone on 52322550.

A full copy of this procedure is displayed in each foyer and on our website.

Resources

Funding information and forms:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/funding/Pages/kinderdatacollection.aspx>

Kindergarten Funding Guide key policy changes and updates:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/funding/Kindergarten%20Funding%20Guide%20key%20policy%20changes%20and%20updates.pdf>

Kindergarten Funding Rates:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/funding/Pages/kinderfundrates.aspx>

Kindergarten Information Management System (KIM) access:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/funding/Pages/kinderim.aspx>

The Kindergarten Funding Guide (2023):

<https://www.vic.gov.au/kindergarten-funding-guide>

Types of kindergarten funding (for parents): <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten/Pages/kindergarten-programs.aspx>