

Welcome

Olympic Avenue Kindergarten is located in the Bayside area of Cheltenham, in a quiet residential area next to Pennydale Park. It is a community operated Kindergarten, welcoming and encouraging the involvement of families. A Committee of Management, made up of parents, works with the teachers to ensure that the Kindergarten operates smoothly and effectively.

Olympic Avenue Kindergarten was established in 1958 and offers separate three and four year old Kindergarten programs. As well as providing stimulating equipment and experiences for the children to explore and enjoy, we provide opportunities for the children to grow and develop in all areas: emotionally, socially, cognitively, physically and in their language development. Our experienced and enthusiastic staff work hard to ensure that each child is helped to take every opportunity to realise their potential. We offer small groups to enable each child to receive maximum attention.

Our Philosophy

Early Childhood is a time of rapid learning. In the first five years, we see enormous changes in a child's cognitive, language, physical, social and emotional development.

As early childhood educators, we know that children develop these skills through the most appropriate vehicle of learning for them, which is "play." By creating a Kindergarten environment and program rich in open ended play opportunities, we are setting the stage for learning to take place and skills to develop. By acknowledging that all children have individual needs, we can plan objectives that are appropriate for each child. By communicating with parents, we can develop a feeling of "community" between all families and work towards outcomes that will be of benefit to the whole Kindergarten community.

Our Program

Our three and four year old programs aim towards developing the child's whole self in five ways:

1. Emotionally - gaining confidence, independence and self-esteem.
2. Socially - learning how to cooperate with and accept each other in work and play.
3. Cognitively - developing skills and concepts through a variety of experiences.
4. Physically - building strength, coordination and body awareness.
5. Language skills - developing communication skills between children and extending vocabulary and awareness of their speech patterns.

The children are provided with a program that is rich with learning opportunities. The children learn at their own pace throughout the program, which is a balance of free-choice indoor and outdoor activities and planned small group experiences.



The Gardens & Outside Play Area

The Kindergarten's back garden is divided into three main areas. The Adventure Playground features flexible play equipment that can be moved around to create different play spaces, such as bridges, climbing frames, planks and tyres. The grounds include a sandpit, cubby house, pergola and swings.

The 'Quiet Garden' is a sensory garden where the children plant and tend fruit and vegetables to later harvest and eat. Ornamental plants are also planted throughout the year to enhance the children's awareness of the seasons and nature's ebb and flow. Teachers draw from what is occurring in the garden in discussing seasons, growing and changes.

On the opposite side of the building is the 'Wilderness Garden,' which features a drystone creek bed and a digging patch, and is planted with native plants indigenous to our area.



Enrolment

Olympic Avenue Kinder participates in the central enrolment scheme at Bayside Council. Enrolment forms are available at the Kindergarten, or can be downloaded by accessing the site below.

Places for the Kindergarten program within the City of Bayside are allocated according to a number of criteria, which are regularly reviewed. Information regarding the criteria for the Bayside Central enrolment scheme, as well as the enrolment application form, can be obtained from Bayside City Council at 27 Royal Avenue, Sandringham, 3191 or from the Council's website at:

http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/children_kindergarten_information.htm



Olympic Avenue Kindergarten
28 Olympic Avenue
Cheltenham 3192
Ph. 9583 6166

www.olympicavenuekinder.com.au



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