



Baxter Kindergarten and Children's Centre.

All you need to know...



play, explore, learn



Content-

- Why Kindergarten?
- Why choose sessional Kindergarten?
- Our Goal: Your child's school readiness
- Our Educators
- Our Environment and Resources
- A Day in the life of our Baxter Kindergarten children
- Contact Details

Why Kindergarten?

Kindergarten is an important step for young children. We strongly advocate all children go to kindergarten.

Research has shown that early years education helps set children up for a bright future and attending two years of quality kindergarten has even greater benefits.

At kindergarten, children learn skills that will serve them throughout their life. Kindergarten improves children's health and wellbeing, helps them to develop strong social skills and encourages a love of learning.

Children who go to kindergarten are more independent and confident and are more likely to make a smooth transition to primary school.

Further information about kindergarten is available on the [Department of Education and Training website](#).

Why choose sessional kindergarten?

As a sessional kindergarten, we offer **explicit teaching** and a more **structured kinder program** when compared to many childcare kindergarten programs. As such, we are enabled to accommodate a variety needs and learning styles and focus on children's **school readiness**.

Our kindergarten is an important part of our broader community. We proudly facilitate **community connection and belonging** for our children and their families.

We are pleased to be facilitators of the beginnings of often life long **friendships**. One of the biggest benefits for families attending sessional kindergarten is that families arrive and pick up their children at the same time – which allows families to get to know each other.

Many of our children's parents or guardians also benefit from supporting kinder fundraisers, working bees and events – providing an opportunity to network with their local kinder community and make **new professional and personal connections**.

We are encouraging of parents and guardians to **volunteer** and practice or develop their skills to help with kindergarten operations – from helping educators in the kinder rooms, organising events or fundraising initiatives, or volunteering on our Committee of Management.

Our Goal: Your child's school readiness

Ready or Not?

International research emphasises that certain areas of development and maturity are essential for children so that once at school, they are able to maximise the opportunities provided.

Whilst many people believe that reading, writing and knowing colours and numbers are indicators of school readiness, it is in fact a child's social and emotional development that is most important. Some schools may suggest that the "three R's" are necessary for children starting school, but this is only a reflection of a particular school's position, and not reflective of a child's readiness for school.

We run a play based kindergarten program, in accordance with the Victorian Early Years Learning Framework and [Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia](#). This enables your child's school readiness and transition to primary education.

For more information about school readiness, and your child, read the Early Life Foundation's [School Readiness Fact Sheet](#)



Baxter Kindergarten's Educators

The educational staff at Baxter Kindergarten and Children's Centre pride themselves on the relationships we have with our children, families and community.

Demonstrating respectful and meaningful relationships, we are proud to have a long standing team of qualified and experienced educators who are passionate about working with your child, and each other.

Our Environment and Resources

We are very lucky to have the resources at kinder that we do, including many natural resources. This enables the educators to provide a varied, engaging and challenging program for our children to participate in.

We understand and value our environment, built and natural and share our knowledge with the children; this is embedded into our programs.

Our outdoor space is incredibly special; with natural landscapes in abundance and beautiful trees that demonstrate the seasons, among many other things...

We provide a playground wonderland; equipped with a range of sensory play experiences - a sandpit, mud pit and water pump, not to mention our very popular tricycle track, swings, monkey bars and a range of climbing structures that facilitate development of coordination, strength and agility and foster creative role play, not to mention shrieks of delight!

Inside we have well resourced class rooms and a well stocked storeroom to provide a vast array of creative experiences to offer your children, our educator's choosing just the right activity to build upon your child's learning and grow their interests.

What does a day at kinder look like?

No two days are the same at Baxter Kindergarten! We offer a structured program featuring different learning experiences each day, tailored to the needs and interests of our children. Incursions and excursions are special parts of our kinder program – and happen throughout the year.

Typically:

- A session starts after children place their belongings away and their educator welcomes them into their room, stopping at the bathroom to wash their hands - ready for play!
- Children independently choose what they would like to do. Educators support the children to engage in the program.
- Group time is held at various times throughout the day. This is where the children come together to enjoy a group activity such as show-and-tell, singing songs or story time.
- Children are supported to become independent in retrieving and eating their packed snack or lunch, handwashing being an important routine both before and after eating.
- Whenever possible, we offer the opportunity for both outdoor free play and structured activities, supporting children to ensure they are dressed appropriately and remain sun smart.
- At the end of the session, children wash their hands before returning to the mat to wait for to be collected by you or another authorised adult, farewelled by the educators and their friends – ready to leave for the day.

If you have any questions, we encourage you to contact us:

info@baxterkindergarten.com.au

5971 1868

You may also like to visit us at 26 Olstead Drive, Baxter.