

# Funded Kindergarten Programs within the Murrindindi Shire



# Acknowledgement of Country

Murrindindi Shire Council acknowledges the Taungurung clans of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of a large part of Central Victoria, which includes our Shire.

The Taungurung clans include the clans of Benbendore-balluk, Buthera-balluk, Gunung-Yellam, Leuk-willam, Moomoomgoonbeet, Nattarak-balluk, Ngurai-illam-balluk, Nira-balluk, Tenbringnellams, Walledriggers, Waring-illam-balluk, Warrinillum, Yaran-illam, Yirun-illam-balluk, and Yowung-illam-balluk.

Council pays its respects to the Taungurung elders, both past and present, and all Taungurung people. And acknowledges the role that we all have to play in the path to reconciliation.

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Education  
and Training

# Why Kindergarten?

By the time a child turns five, around 90 per cent of a child's brain development has already occurred.

A child's relationships, experiences and environment during these years create neural pathways that have a long-lasting influence on health, wellbeing, behaviour and learning. While genes provide the initial map for the brain, the significant 'wiring' that occurs early in life effectively programs a child's development.

When a child receives the right support at the right time, this lays a strong foundation for healthy development. Around the time a child turns three, there is a key window of opportunity to optimise their learning and development, and in particular, their social and emotional wellbeing. The development of language skills helps children to develop strong social skills. A child's experiences during these years make a significant difference to their future learning and life outcomes.

Between the ages of three and five, children experience a critical period in the development of their self-regulation. Children develop skills that help them to manage their emotions and behaviour, build resilience and persistence, form positive relationships and focus their attention. We know that these attributes make a significant difference to children's learning at school.



The above information is an excerpt from "Two Years of Quality Kindergarten : What does the evidence say?" as produced by the Department of Education and Training. The full article include research credit is available to view here: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/professionals/profdev/two-years-of-quality-kindergarten-evidence-fact-sheet.pdf>

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This publication is a guide to available funded services within the Murrindindi Shire.

Please note that the information provided in this booklet is derived and owned by each of the Kindergartens and has been provided to Council for the purpose of this document.

Council does not manage or specifically endorse individual services.



# Alexandra Kindergarten

**Address:** 15 Bayley Street, Alexandra VIC 3714

**Phone:** (03) 5772 1387

**Email:** [alexandra.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:alexandra.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

**Website:** [www.alexandrakindergarten.com.au](http://www.alexandrakindergarten.com.au)



# Our Philosophy

Alexandra and District Kindergarten is a partnership between children, family, staff and community that works to build happiness, resilience and possibility in the youngest members of this diverse and close knit population.

As such our collective aim is for:

Children who feel cared for, important, interested and secure – who approach each Kinder day with a sense of excitement and potential; who return home bursting with stories to tell;

Families who can entrust their children to a safe, respectful environment – who feel part of the Kinder experience and know that their children's home life and individual personalities are recognised and understood;

Staff who feel stimulated, valued and rewarded – who have the resources and the support they need to give of their utmost every day; who see Kinder as an opportunity to gain, as well as to share knowledge;

A Community that feels ownership of the Kinder – that can contribute to the children's experience and their wider sense of belonging; that understands that quality childhood education brings lasting benefits to all;

Developing the whole child – recognising the importance of physical, social, emotional, environmental, spiritual and cognitive wellbeing;

Balancing boundaries with opportunities – ensuring that children know what is expected of them and of others, in turn enabling them to extend themselves and discover new things;

Harnessing each child's extinct and varied way of learning;

Encouraging positive communication and respectful listening – discussing, questioning, wondering and playing in order to help children to find their own solutions to problems;

Modelling enthusiasm, courtesy, patience, consistency and positive reinforcement;

Building on children's specific interests to make each activity more meaningful; fostering concentration by allowing children to complete activities within a flexible timeframe;

Expanding children's understanding of the world around them through excursions into the community and through a special visitor program;

Highlighting the importance of the natural environment through discussion and through the exploration of our beautiful garden setting;

Communication with families—providing detailed accounts of activities in a daily journal, and discussing individual triumphs and concerns with parents as they arrive.

With this philosophy as our guide, Alexandra and District Kindergarten lives its fundamental belief in the value of early childhood education—its belief that, indeed, it takes a village to raise a child; and that, to contribute to the development of children who feel cherished, supported and inspired is both a collective responsibility and a continuous privilege.

## Services available at our location

- Government funded/subsidised 3 and 4 year old kindergarten programs
- Bush Kinder





# Eildon Kindergarten

**Address:** 45 High Street Eildon VIC 3713

**Phone:** (03) 5774 2041

**Email:** [kindergarten@eildonps.vic.edu.au](mailto:kindergarten@eildonps.vic.edu.au)

**Website:** [www.eildonps.vic.edu.au/eildon-district-kindergarten](http://www.eildonps.vic.edu.au/eildon-district-kindergarten)





# Our Philosophy

We believe that play is crucial to the development of children. It is the way they explore, discover and learn about their world, each other and themselves. Our programs are based on our observations of the children, following their interests, our understanding of Early Childhood principles and the Victorian and National Early Years Learning Framework.

Learning through play allows children to explore experience, communicate, observe, reflect, create, collaborate, co-operate, problem-solve and imagine. Our programs are designed to facilitate these processes. Children are encouraged to exercise independence and choice and to initiate play ideas, to focus their attention and to achieve intrinsic satisfaction. We favour the use of unstructured play materials such as natural materials, paint, mud, water, sand and blocks for children to develop a positive attitude towards learning and exploring. We place emphasis on the process of creativity and not on the outcome.

We always provide a safe, secure, caring and nurturing environment and are extremely family friendly, which enhances every child's ability to participate confidently in our program. Staff are always actively guiding and assisting children when necessary through educated observations, setting children on the path to successful outcomes and constantly building self-esteem.

We value the outdoor environment and believe that children benefit from experiencing the seasonal changes, the opportunities for physical development and the opportunity to play in a garden. We believe in encouraging the children to learn about environmental and conservation issues; emphasis is placed on the use of natural and recycled materials, wise water usage, power saving, recycling, worm farming, composting, vegetable gardening, waste minimization and positive regard and sense of responsibility for all living things. Sustainable practices are embedded into the daily running of our centre and program planning.

At Eildon we celebrate the uniqueness of each child. We acknowledge that each child develops at an individual pace and in unique directions.

We are committed to the development of a child's self-esteem through child-directed cooperative play. Many children learn by doing. Children are free to wonder, explore, create, make mistakes, question and repeat experiences from which they can make their own conclusions.

We value racial and socio-economic diversity. We celebrate the different kinds of families and are committed to appreciating the importance of family in the life of each child.

Within our learning environment, children can develop a sense of community and group identity. We are a small rural kindergarten with a high staff/child ratio and this

allows for many opportunities for children to participate in a large and wonderful variety of excursions/incursions.

Eildon and District Kindergarten is a children's service which provides a range of carefully planned play based programs to meet the developmental needs of children in the three to five age group. Special emphasis is given to children who are in the year before school commencement, recognising that we believe kindergarten is a preparation for life.

Our kindergarten is located on the Eildon Primary School grounds, thus providing children many opportunities to engage in and explore the school environment, making transition to school a smooth and successful experience.

We value good health and wellbeing and promote the 'Heathy Together Program', 'Smile4Miles', and 'Sun Smart' programs. A 'Kindergarten swimming program' at the local swimming pool is also conducted in Term One for the 4yr old group; this is in conjunction with the Eildon Primary School swimming program.

We value parents' contributions to our programs through rosters, communication, special talents, cultural diversity activities, working bees, involvement in the Committee and in any way they feel comfortable.

## Services available at our location

- Eildon Primary School
- Government funded/subsidised 3 and 4 year old kindergarten programs
- Murrindindi Shire Council Supported Playgroup
- Bush Kinder





**FLOWERDALE**  
**Kindergarten**

Supported by MITCHELL SHIRE Kindergarten Services

# Flowerdale Kindergarten

**Address:** 3377 Whittlesea-Yea Road, Flowerdale VIC 3717

**Phone:** (03) 5780 2816

**Email:** Flowerdale.Kinder@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

**Website:** [www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au)

 via Mitchell Shire Council



# Our Philosophy

The Flowerdale Kindergarten aims to provide a high-quality educational program for all children in a nurturing and caring environment.

We achieve this by:

Providing a warm and welcoming environment where all children feel worthwhile and important.

Valuing and accepting each child as an individual and creating a curriculum which is based on children's interests, fosters their creativity and includes children as active participants in the curriculum planning process.

Providing opportunities to learn through play which is facilitated by extended periods of non-interrupted play and experiences which enable children to think, investigate and wonder.

Treating all children and families with respect and developing strong partnerships with parent matter's related to the care and education of their child.

Recognising and respecting each families culture, religion and understanding parent's choices relating to their children.

An environment where staff members show respect, trust and support.

Working closely with our cluster manager, committee and local community to provide an educational program for families.

## Useful Links

Taungurung Land and Waters Council: [www.taungurung.com.au](http://www.taungurung.com.au)

Victorian Department of Education and Training: [www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au)

Raising Children Network: [www.raisingchildren.net.au](http://www.raisingchildren.net.au)

Murrindindi Shire Council: [www.murrindindi.vic.goc.au](http://www.murrindindi.vic.goc.au)

Victorian Government Funded Three Year Old Kindergarten: [www.vic.gov.au/kinder](http://www.vic.gov.au/kinder)

Association For Children With a Disability: [www.acd.org.au](http://www.acd.org.au)

## Services available at our location

- Flowerdale Primary School
- Government funded/subsidised 3 and 4 year old kindergarten programs
- Playgroup
- Murrindindi Shire Council Maternal and Child Health Nurse





# Kinglake Kindergarten

**Address:** 37-69 Extons Road, Kinglake Central VIC 3763

**Phone:** 03 5786 1352

**Email:** [kinglakerangescc@gmail.com](mailto:kinglakerangescc@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.kinglakerangescc.org.au](http://www.kinglakerangescc.org.au)



# Our Philosophy

## **Nature**

We acknowledge the significant impact nature has on fostering strong mental health – in children and adults. For this reason, authentic nature connections both at KRCC and in our surrounding National Parklands, plays a pivotal part in our every day. We recognise the limitless learning possibilities nature offers and we therefore foster strong connections with children and their natural world.

We honour the unique connection with country held by Australia's First Peoples, and strive to promote Taungurung and Wurundjeri perspectives authentically on country.

## **Relationships**

We know nurturing relationships are paramount to the overall wellbeing of every human being. Establishing secure attachments in the first 1000 days of life positively impact a child's entire life. This is why children's individual needs are at the forefront of every decision we make.

We believe when we enrol a child, we enrol a family, so we strive to support families in their parenting role, in their wellbeing, through connections to professional services and through warm and respectful understanding.

We value communication and strive to involve families in decision making about their child, our service and our community.

We acknowledge the advocacy role that Educators play, both within KRCC and our wider profession. With this in mind, we commit to ongoing professional development of our team, provide information in a variety of ways for parents, and both invite and seek out professional colleagues to share best practice.

## **Time**

In today's hurried world, it has never been more important to have time. Time to be. To take a mental breather. To reboot.

We are aware of research highlighting the negative impacts of over scheduling children with highly structured programs in their early years. This is why our play based program is organised around providing children with long uninterrupted periods of time to play, dig, climb, explore, invent, organise and innovate. These are the experiences that lead to resilience, social skill development, executive function (ability to organise oneself) and readiness for school and life.

Our play-based program is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework and the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework, and informed by international best practice and current neuroscience research.

## Cups

We know people, including children, have physiological needs for freedom, mastery, connection, safety and fun. These needs are summarised in the Sandi Pheonix Cups Framework which underpins all of our decisions about children, families and ourselves.

Each person's cup profile is unique. We make every effort to tailor our interactions as to be cup filling for each individual thereby enhancing overall wellbeing, sense of comfort, security and belonging.

## Knowledge

Our pedagogy (way of teaching) is informed by brain development, self-regulation, co-regulation and a guidance approach. We look to global leaders in the field for guidance in our pedagogy. We strive to understand trauma and its impacts on development. We appreciate that anxiety is a major challenge facing children in Australia.

We look beyond behaviour to understand the unique context for each child, building our knowledge of them as individuals, their family, community and personal circumstances. This information informs our practice for each individual child.

We value knowledge in both children and adults. Our programs are open-ended to encourage explorations, investigation and inquiry interjected with intentional teaching to support children to construct and co-construct their knowledge.

## Services available at our location

- Middle Kinglake Primary School
- Government funded/subsidised 3 and 4 year old kindergarten programs
- Bush Kinder
- Long Day Care
- Peep
- Murrindindi Shire Council Maternal and Child Health Nurse







# Marysville Kindergarten

**Address:** 15 Falls Road, Marysville VIC 3779

**Phone:** 03 5963 3330

**Email:** [marysville.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:marysville.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

**Website:** [www.marysvillepreschool.kindergarten.vic.gov.au](http://www.marysvillepreschool.kindergarten.vic.gov.au)



# Our Philosophy

Every child is unique in terms of life experiences, developmental readiness, and cultural heritage. At Marysville Pre School we pride ourselves on our nurturing and inspiring learning environment, our passionate educators and our dedication to providing an inclusive and respectful service.

Our local community, strong sense of identity and our commitment to sustainability with continual improvement is paramount to who we are. We make the most of every opportunity to connect with our environment and create relationships to benefit the children for generations to come.

The values we hold and the principles we follow ensure each individual child is provided with the best opportunity, skills and knowledge needed for life. Embedded within our centre are nurturing relationships, rich learning experiences and exploration of the world with confidence.

All at Marysville Pre School are proud of the program we provide, the connections we foster and the difference we make. Early Years Education matters for a lifetime.

## Services available at our location

- Marysville Primary School
- Before and After school Care
- Government funded/subsidised 3 and 4 year old kindergarten programs
- Long Day Care
- Occasional Care
- Playgroup
- Murrindindi Shire Council Maternal and Child Health Nurse





# Yea Kindergarten

**Address:** 23 The Semi Circle Close, Yea VIC 3717

**Phone:** 03 5797 2730

**Email:** [yea.els@vt.uniting.org](mailto:yea.els@vt.uniting.org)

**Website:** [www.yeadcc.com.au](http://www.yeadcc.com.au)



# Our Philosophy

Yea and District Children's Centre:

- is committed to providing quality early childhood services to the children of Yea, and surrounding districts, in a warm welcoming environment
- is committed to providing a high quality preschool programs, accessible to all eligible children in the district
- is committed to high quality long day care program to all eligible children in the district
- respects every child within the programs for their individual abilities and needs, treating all equally regardless of gender, race, religion or background
- has high expectations for every child and provides a learning and developmental program through the planned and incidental experiences of play
- provides children with the opportunity to play in a safe, caring and stimulating environment
- values each child and cherishes the opportunity to assist them in this stage of their life journey
- is a family centred practice and offers support and assistance to families in need
- is seen as a link with families and the Yea community continually seeking to enhance the mutual benefits of a shared relationship
- understands the importance of transition to school and ensures that positive and effective transition takes place
- is committed to providing a professional work environment that supports, develops and nurtures staff
- encourages and promotes strong working relationships within a team environment

## Services available at our location

- Government funded/subsidised 3 and 4 year old kindergarten programs
- Long Day Care
- Murrindindi Shire Council Maternal and Child Health Nurse



# Where to find the kindergartens



