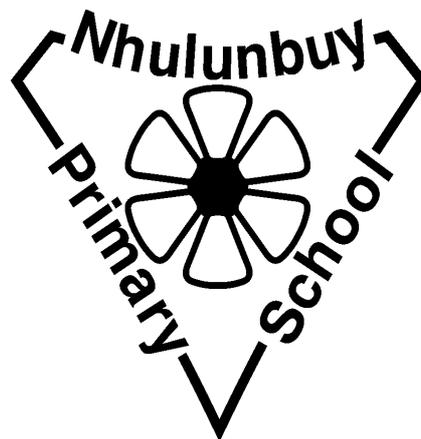


Preschool Handbook 2014



Nhulunbuy Preschool



Preschool Contact Details

Phone: 8987 1056 Fax: 8987 1764

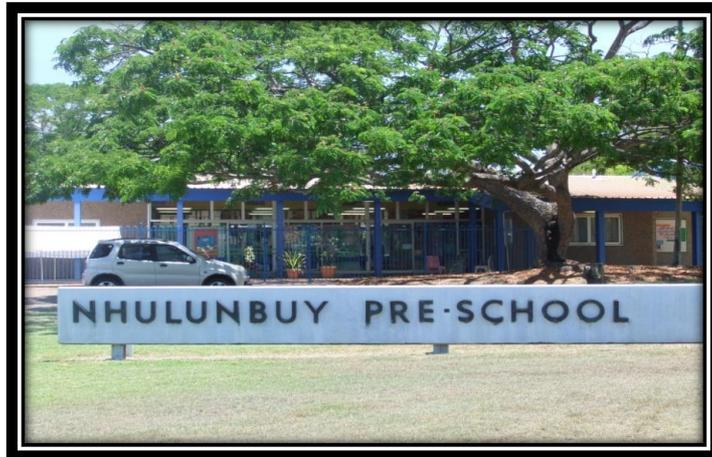
Address: Chesterfield Circuit OR

Mailing Address: PO Box 321

NHULUNBUY NT 0881

Young Hearts ~ Bright Minds ~ Strong Future

Welcome to Nhulunbuy Preschool.



At Nhulunbuy Preschool we believe in our children learning together in a happy, safe, caring and stimulating environment where their individual needs are met.

Our goals reflect the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia.

The goals are for children to Belong, Be and Become. These are achieved through five linked outcomes.

These outcomes are:

- 1: Children Have A Strong Sense Of Identity.
- 2: Children Are Connected With And Contribute To Their World.
- 3: Children Have A Strong Sense Of Wellbeing.
- 4: Children Are Confident And Involved Learners.
- 5: Children Are Effective Communicators.

Our Preschool is aligned with the National Quality Standards for Early Childhood Services and strives for continuous improvement.

Nhulunbuy Preschool is a Walker Learning Approach preschool.

What is the Early Years Learning Framework?

The Early Years Learning Framework is an early childhood curriculum framework, which will guide early childhood educators in developing quality, early childhood education programs. The framework describes the principles, practice and outcomes to support and enhance young children's learning from birth to five years, as well as their transition to school. This will help ensure consistency in the delivery of learning programs around Australia. This website (<http://deewr.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework>) will provide you with detailed information about the framework.

The Framework is based on children: Belonging, Being and Becoming. Belonging is about the children being connected to family, culture, community and place. Being allows the children to be themselves, to seek new experiences and make meaning of the world. Becoming is allowing the children to shape new understandings, and identities and capacity to build relationships with others. These form the foundation for our programs.

The Framework then has three other components:

Principles:

- Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships
- Partnerships with families
- High expectations and equity
- Respect for diversity
- Ongoing learning and reflective practice

Practice:

- Holistic approaches
- Responsiveness to children
- Learning through play
- Intentional teaching
- Learning environments
- Cultural competence
- Continuity of learning and transitions
- Assessment of learning.

Learning Outcomes:

- Outcome 1 Children Have A Strong Sense of Identity
- Outcome 2 Children are Connected With and Contribute to Their World
- Outcome 3 Children Have A Strong Sense of Wellbeing
- Outcome 4 Children are Confident and Involved Learners
- Outcome 5 Children are Effective Communicators.

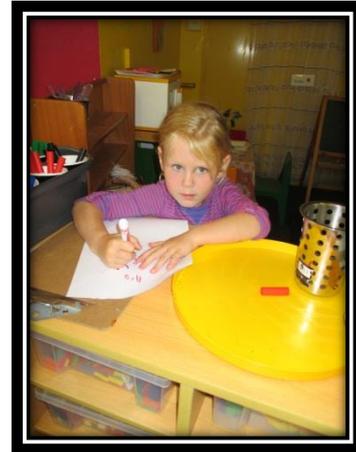
How will the EYLF help my child?

The Early Years Learning Framework has been developed collaboratively by the Australian and state and territory governments with substantial input from the early childhood sector and early childhood academics. Parents can be confident that the framework will support early childhood educators to focus their practice on delivering quality learning opportunities for young children. The Early Years Learning Framework will be included in the National Quality Standards to ensure delivery of nationally-consistent and quality early childhood programs across the country.

What are the key elements of the framework?

The Early Years Learning Framework has a strong emphasis on play-based learning. The framework also recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development. In addition, the framework has a focus on successful transition to formal schooling.

Nhulunbuy Preschool has chosen the Walker Learning Approach as the pedagogy (way of teaching) that we use to meet the Early Years Learning Framework outcomes.



Walker Learning Approach

Teachers in the preschool practise the Walker Learning Approach (WLA), which is play-based and investigation focused. WLA is a rigorous approach that requires teachers to plan for and implement a range of strategies that capture and build on the children's interests. WLA has three distinct parts: Tuning In, Investigation, and Reflection.

Each day there are one or two focus children. The teacher will work very closely with these children throughout the day, monitoring and extending their learning.

Tuning In

Tuning In involves the children being prepared for the day's investigations. The teacher will discuss with the children what the learning intentions are for the day. They will then speak with the focus child about what they plan to do during Investigations and how they will engage in the learning centres. The teacher will use questions to provoke the focus children in their activity as well as make links to the learning intentions.

Investigation Time

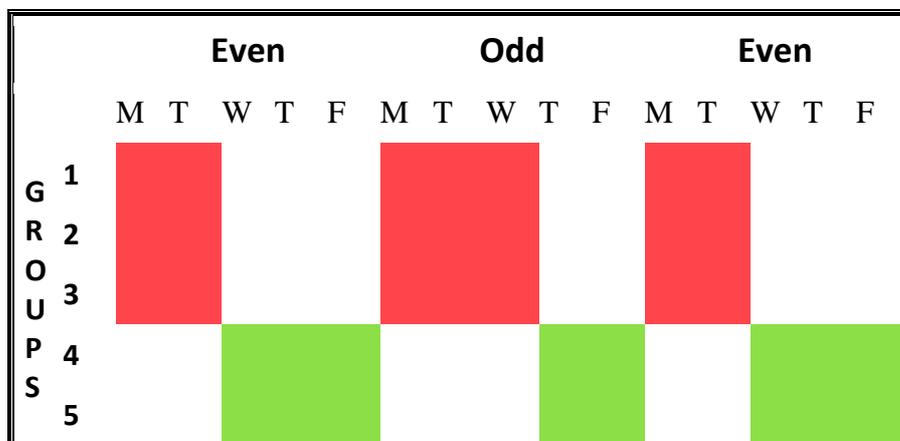
For Investigations the environment is set up for a number of learning centres. These may include a dramatic, a sensory, a collage area, a writing workshop table, a reading area, computers and technology, construction and manipulative equipment and individual spaces or cosy corners. During Investigations the teacher will monitor all the children working in their activities, but work closely with the focus children.

Reflection Time

Reflection time is a critical aspect of the WLA pedagogy. It is not show and tell time. Reflection times help to identify the learning that has occurred during the session. Reflection time is the 'springboard' into explicit teaching. The teacher will speak with the focus children about what they have done during investigation time and discuss with them what they have been learning. Reflection also involves 'resetting' the classroom ready for the rest of the day.

Session Times and Staffing

In 2014 we will be running full day Preschool classes. If there are five classes the structure will be as follows



If there are four classes the structure will be as follows



To meet the National Quality Standard of providing 15 hours of a preschool program, we are using a 30 hour per fortnight model.

The Preschool day will begin at 8:10 and finish at 2:15.

Each class has a teacher qualified in Early Childhood Education or with significant experience working in the Early Years and a teaching assistant. At times there may be a Special Education Support Assistant working in the Preschool to help children with individualised programs. Our ratios are set at 1:11 (1 adult to 11 children), as per the National Quality Standards.

Morning Tea, Lunch and Keeping Comfortable

As your child will be at school all day they will need to bring a bottle of water, morning tea and lunch each day. Nutritious "everyday" foods are a better choice than sugary or fatty foods. **Please note we DO NOT have access to fridges for lunches. You will need to have an ice brick in your child's lunch box to keep it cool.**

We encourage the children to be independent at meal times. Please cut fruit if your child can't manage a whole piece of fruit and avoid packaged foods that are hard to open.

Please note we are a Sun Safe school therefore your child will require a broad brimmed hat or legionnaire style hat in order to take part in outdoor play. If you wish your child to wear sunscreen or insect repellent you must apply this before leaving home.

If your child is unwell, please keep him or her at home.

This precaution not only helps your child, but also lessens the spread of illness amongst other children. Parents should inform teachers when a child has an infectious condition (please refer to the Time Out Guidelines which are available at the Preschool). Teachers are not permitted to administer medication unless signed permission is granted by the parent/guardian.

Parent Involvement

Parents contribute significantly to Preschool life in many ways and are always welcome. At the start of each day's session, each group will have a settling activity time. This is an excellent opportunity for parents and friends to share some fun learning time with the children.

Some ways you may be able to help out are:

- * joining the Parent Committee.
- * sharing your skills and interests e.g. craft, cooking, music, story-telling.
- * helping with the daily program
- * assisting with laundry
- * maintaining and repairing equipment and bikes
- * working bees
- * recycling

All caregivers are invited to help or visit the Preschool on a regular basis. This is an opportunity for you to join your child in the Preschool environment. Younger siblings are welcome at Preschool. An area for parents has been set aside for parents to gather, chat, share ideas and access resources.

Preschool Parent Contribution

While the Northern Territory Government provides some funding for preschools, it does not provide for the full cost of consumables such as pencils, paper, paint, crayons, games and other additional equipment. A modest voluntary contribution will help cover these costs. This is vital for the effective running of our Preschool. Parent contributions are payable at the Primary School and may be paid by the term, semester or year.

Parent Committee

The committee meets regularly and plays an important part in our decision making. All parents of preschoolers are welcome to join in. It is informal and a great way to get to know others while helping to enrich your child's preschool experience.

School Council

The School Council meets monthly. You are very welcome to attend these meetings. The dates are posted in the School Newsletter which you will receive weekly via email.

Telephone Calls

It is difficult to answer the phone during class teaching time. Please use these times as a guide. Before 10.00am leave a message on the answering machine; between 10.00am and 1.00pm a staff member should answer as staff are on breaks, after 1.00pm leave a message. If the matter is urgent please ring the primary school 89870022.

Change of Address/Contact Details

It is very important that we have up to date contact details at the Preschool. If your details change please contact preschool or the front office at the primary school to update them as soon as possible, including your email address. It is important that your email address is kept current and that you access it regularly as we use this to communicate with families about the learning intentions each fortnight and include many examples of the children working towards these intentions.

Arrivals/Departures

The classroom doors will open at 8:10. On arrival we like to greet the children and talk to parents and caregivers.

Parents need to collect their children unless alternative arrangements have been made with the teacher. We like to say goodbye to the children before they go home so we know they are leaving.

Keeping You Informed

At Nhulunbuy Preschool we use an electronic program to take photos and observations of the children. The program allows us to link the photos and observations of the child directly to the Early Years Learning Framework. To share these with you we email them and you can create your own electronic folder of your child's preschool journey or alternatively you can print them and create a portfolio along with their art and craft artifacts that they bring home.

Another important part of monitoring your child's development is the collection of data for the Assessment of Student Competencies (ASC). The ASC is a compilation of skills that are needed for children to have success at school. If a child has difficulty with some of these skills they may experience difficulties throughout their schooling. The ASC can be used as an intervention tool to identify children who may need support.

The fortnightly newsletter, which is emailed to you, also contains important information about your child's time at Preschool. The newsletter contains the learning intentions for each fortnight and examples of the children working on these outcomes.

Finally, we want you and your child to enjoy your time at Nhulunbuy Preschool. Our staff are friendly and approachable; please don't hesitate to speak with your child's teacher.



Enrolment and Entry Policy

1. Enrolments

- 1.1 Parents are required to complete enrolment forms online, please contact the Nhulunbuy Primary School front office for the link.
- 1.2 Nhulunbuy Preschool has a maximum enrolment of 22 students per class. An educator-to-child ratio of 1.11 with AO2 support per class.
- 1.3 One place per class is to be held for students transferring from other Northern Territory preschools.
- 1.4 The maximum number of enrolments in total for the preschool is 110, 5 x groups or 22 students.

2. Entry to preschool

- 2.1 Children are eligible to attend preschool after their fourth birthday depending on vacancies.
- 2.2 Priority for entry to Nhulunbuy Preschool will be made on the basis of age and availability of vacancies.
- 2.3 The Teacher in Charge of the preschool will manage class placements and contact parents prior to entry.
- 2.4 At the enrolment interview, parents will be provided with a handbook including all relevant policy information on entry to Nhulunbuy Preschool.

3. Wait list

- 3.1 When the number of enrolments reaches 105 (with 5 places being held for intra territory transfers) a waiting list will be established by the Teacher in Charge of the preschool.
- 3.2 Students on the waiting list will gain entry when a vacancy occurs. They will be prioritised on the basis of age.

4. Special Considerations

- 4.1 Where early entry to preschool is deemed advantageous to children with special needs, children may enter prior to their fourth birthday in line with the Department of Education and Children Services (DECS) policy. These children will complete the whole of the following year at Preschool. Children with special needs that commence prior to their fourth birthday will go through an orientation process to allow them to better access the preschool program in the following year.