

# Preschool Handbook 2023

Chesterfield Circuit
Nhulunbuy NT 0880
PO Box 32 I
Nhulunbuy NT 088 I

Tel: (08) 8987 1056

Email: nps.frontoffice@education.nt.gov.au





#### Location:

Chesterfield Circuit, Nhulunbuy NT



#### Website:

www.nhulunbuyprimary.nt.edu.au



#### Postal:

PO Box 321, Nhulunbuy NT



#### Preschool Handbook:

www.nhulunbuyprimary.nt.edu.au/ enrolments/ NPS Preschool Handbook



#### Email:

nps.preschool@education.nt.gov.au



#### Policy and Procedures:

www.education.nt.gov.au/ education/policies/preschoolspecific-policy



Phone: 08 8987 1056



#### National Quality Standards

www.acecqa.gov.au/ resources/national-registers/ services/nhulunbuy-preschool



## Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Yolngu people, and give our respect to the land on which Nhulunbuy Primary School is built. We acknowledge the past, present and future elders for they hold the memories, traditions, the culture and hopes of Indigenous Australia.

# Nhulunbuy Preschool Philosophy

## Learning & Growing Together

At Nhulunbuy Preschool we believe in valuing and celebrating each child's individual needs, identities and goals.

We provide a safe and nurturing environment where children feel welcome and supported.

We create engaging play-based learning opportunities through reflective and collaborative planning.

We empower students to make positive change and work together for a sustainable future.

At Nhulunbuy Preschool all children learn and grow together, in their own time and way.



#### **OUR PHILOSOPHY**

Our philosophy is built upon our whole school's vision of PRIDE - Persistence, Respect, Integrity, Diversity and Excellence as well as the principles from The Early Years Learning Framework - Respect, Reflect, and Relate.

In our preschool, children are immersed in a play- based learning environment where they are presented with a diverse range of opportunities for learning, reflective of each child's needs and skillsets. They are encouraged to explore, solve problems, communicate, think, create and construct based on their own ideas, interests and prior knowledge.

We acknowledge the individual needs of every child and their different ways of learning. Through our programming and planning, we aim to provide lots of different opportunities for children to learn and succeed.

#### OUR PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE PROMOTES EACH PRESCHOOL CHILD TO:

- Develop rich and reciprocal social skills and interpersonal relationships with peers and educators.
- Extend their own interests, knowledge and skills.
- Become confident and engaged individuals who are involved in their own learning journey.
- Develop their own sense of place, identity and a connection to the land.
- Develop school readiness skills.

#### OUR PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE PROMOTES EACH PRESCHOOL FAMILY TO:

- Be involved in their child's preschool journey.
- Be active in guiding and supporting Nhulunbuy Preschool to be a rich, inclusive and family orientated centre.

#### OUR PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE PROMOTES AND SUPPORT OUR EDUCATORS TO:

- Develop rich, respectful and reciprocal relationships with all children.
- Respect and celebrate each child's identity, culture, beliefs and family.
- Foster a sense of belonging for all learners and their families.
- Encourage, support, guide and celebrate each learner for who they are and how they learn.
- Further build on their early years knowledge and practice that is reflective of creating and maintaining a child centred learning environment.
- Build and develop childrens' prior knowledge and experiences for their learning and development.
- Build on childrens' interests, abilities, cultures and previous learning experiences to extend their thinking, learning and development.
- Promote cultural awareness in all children, including a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing and being.
- Provide safe and stimulating environments, experiences and opportunities for all children.

#### **OUR PROGRAM**

Our programs are always changing and reflective of the group and individuals' interests. Opportunities for investigating, problem solving, building social connections and expressing what children know about their world through arts, music, play and conversation are key aspects to the weekly program.

At Nhulunbuy Preschool we believe that if you are happy, feel safe, confident and supported you are going to be more productive, involved and receptive to the world and learning around you.

We aim to achieve this through a personalised, investigative play-based pedagogy. This is based on both the Early Years Learning Framework and the Northern Territory Preschool Curriculum. It is a combination of adult-led learning, guided play and learning and child-directed play and learning.



The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) is the national framework that aims to "extend and enrich children's learning by providing young children with opportunities to maximize their potential and develop a foundation for future success in learning" (EYLF, 2009, page 5). For the children this means that we all work in partnership to guide them to become successful, confident and creative learners.

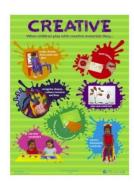


The NT Preschool Curriculum has been developed as a practical guide to assist early childhood educators to implement the outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) for children from three to five years of age.



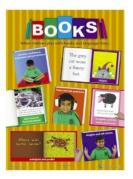
Both documents are available for your viewing on-line or in the preschool foyer.











Play based learning is central to the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and is an essential part of learning for young children. Through play experiences children learn to lead, follow, cooperate, take turns and wait, develop language skills, build relationships, problem solve and be creative.

At Nhulunbuy Preschool, children will be exposed to a diverse range of learning opportunities and rich and purposeful play experiences. Through strong relationships with children, educators introduce and reinforce concepts in an engaging and age-appropriate way and use their natural sense of curiosity and discovery to explore and experience the world around them.

#### THE NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK



The early years are critical for establishing self-esteem, resilience, healthy growth and capacity to learn.

The National Quality Framework outlines the legal requirements and sets the standard for quality education in the early years.

The staff at Nhulunbuy Preschool are focused on a continuous journey of growth and development guided by the NQF.

Please visit <a href="http://www.acecqa.gov.au/families">http://www.acecqa.gov.au/families</a> for more information on how the NQS benefits your child

#### QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Nhulunbuy Preschool Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) guides our continuous improvement. Our service is assessed by the regulatory authorities to ensure we are meeting the National Quality Standard and makes recommendations for further development.

At our last assessment and rating in 2018 our preschool was rated as exceeding the National Quality Standards in Quality Areas 2 and 7 and meeting the National Quality Standards in Quality Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Overall our preschool was rated Meeting National Quality Standards.



Meaningful engagement with families, children and the community is integral to the success of the QIP. We encourage you to voice your opinion or give us feedback about aspects that are important to you and your child. Our policies and procedures are also available upon request.

#### PRESCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLMENT

Children are eligible to attend preschool at the beginning of the school year if they turn 4 on or before 30 June.

Nhulunbuy Primary School manages all preschool enrolments. Please contact the Front Office 8987 0022 for all queries. Once paperwork has been completed, the Preschool Teacher in Charge will contact you for an orientation and interview. Parents will be contacted by letter or email to advise their child's class placement and starting date.

#### PRESCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Nhulunbuy Preschool has a Teacher in Charge/Educational Leader, responsible for:

- Overseeing the operation of the preschool.
- Maintaining National Quality Standards.
- Collaboratively planning with all staff to create and maintain a positive and appropriate educational environment.
- Assisting educators to provide best practice.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### **SESSION TIMES**

The preschool operates on a model of 30 hours per fortnight to ensure children are provided with the expected 15 hours of a preschool program each week. The preschool will operate on full day sessions beginning at 8:10am and finishing at 2:15pm.

See the session schedule below.

Group 1		Group 2 & 3	
ODD WEEKS	Mon/Tue/Wed	ODD WEEKS	Thurs/Fri
1, 3, 5, 7, 9		1, 3, 5, 7, 9	
EVEN WEEKS 2, 4, 6, 8,	Mon/Tue	EVEN WEEKS 2, 4, 6, 8,	Wed/Thurs/Fri
10		10	

#### **MORNING ROUTINE**

Predictable morning routines are important to promote independence as well as give children responsibility for their belongings.

Please support your child to:

- Carry their own bag into class.
- Get their lunch box, fruit break, hat and drink bottle out of their bag and place these in their lockers or labelled tubs.
- Put their lunch box in the fridge.
- Put their bags outside on the hooks.
- Settle at an activity.

#### SIGNING IN AND OUT

All students need to be signed in and out of the preschool for each session they attend. The sign-in sheets will be located at the entry area of your classroom – please see your child's teacher for more information. If a person other than the parent/carer is to collect your child, written authorisation from the parent/carer is required. If your child attends before or after school care – please notify us of your arrangements during enrolment and if/when your care situation changes.

#### STUDENT PROGRESS

All students will have a personal 'portfolio' that includes observations, anecdotal notes, photographs, art, stories, and other samples of work. These are available within the classroom for you to access.

#### **Digital portfolios**



#### Child created hardcopy portfolio (example)



#### **REQUIREMENTS**

Each child will need to bring the following, clearly labelled items to preschool every day.

- Appropriate size schoolbag.
- Change of clothes in the event of messy play or accidents.
- Closed-in shoes.
- Fruit or a healthy snack for fruit break packed in separate container.
- Lunchbox with healthy recess and lunch.
- Personal water bottle.
- Broad brimmed or legionnaire hat (no caps).

#### **PARKING**

Please note that the Arnhem Learning Centre bus has a designated parking area for drop off and pick up times. Please ensure you do not park in the bus zone or behind it. There is a large carpark available to families at the top end of the preschool building.



#### CARE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

All articles brought to preschool should be clearly labelled with the student's name. All toys and personal items should be left at home. Nhulunbuy Preschool takes no responsibility for lost or stolen items.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Please ensure that you send a Seesaw message or ring the primary school on (08) 8987 0022 to notify them when your child will be absent from school.

Regular attendance (9 days out of 10) is important for your child to achieve success at preschool. This leads to more success at school so it is important to establish excellent attendance habits while in preschool.

#### IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL.

Please keep your child at home if your child is sick. 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 so that risk of spread can be managed within the preschool. If a child becomes ill while at the preschool, parents will be contacted to collect them. In these cases, we request that the child is collected as soon as possible to provide adequate medical attention.

It is imperative that a child suffering any of the following conditions be excluded from the preschool until they are no longer infectious, and well enough to participate in all programmed activities.



Centre for Disease Control (CDC) PO Box 40596 Casuarina NT 0811 Fax: (08) 8922 8310

# Time Out

(08) 8922 8044 Darwin (08) 8951 7540 Alice Springs (08) 8987 0357 East Amhem (08) 8962 4259 Barkly (08) 8973 9049 Katherine

# MINIMUM PERIODS OF EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL, PRE-SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN OR STAFF WITH, OR EXPOSED TO, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(Adapted from Staying Healthy, 5th Edition, 2013)

	CONDITION	ACTION	EXCLUSION OF CASE	EXCLUSION OF CONTACTS*
•	Campylobacter infection	if affecting 2 or more persons	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>5</sup>	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Candidiasis (thrush)		Not excluded	Not excluded
▶ .	Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection		Not excluded	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Conjunctivitis		Exclude until discharge from the eyes has stopped, unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis	Not excluded
•	Cryptosporidium		Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup>	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	<b>Diarrhoea</b> (no organism identified)	if affecting 2 or more persons	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup>	Not excluded
•	Fungal Infections of the skin or nails (e.g. ringworm, tinea)		Exclude until the day after starting appropriate antifungal treatment	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Glardiasis		Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup>	Not excluded
•	Glandular fever (mononucleosis, Epstein–Barr virus [EBV] infection)		Not excluded	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Hand, foot and mouth disease		Exclude until all blisters have dried	Not excluded
•	Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib)	<b>*</b>	Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days	Not excluded. Contact Centre for Disease Control for specialist advice
<b>&gt;</b>	Head lice (pediculosis)		Not excluded if effective treatment begins before the next day at the education and care service. The child does not need to be sent home immediately if head lice are detected	Not excluded
•	Hepatitis A	*	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received and until at least 7 days after the onset of jaundice	Not excluded.  Contact Centre for Disease  Control for specialist advice about vaccinating or treating children in the same room or group
<b>&gt;</b>	Hepatitis B		Not excluded	Not excluded
▶ .	Hepatitis C		Not excluded	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters)		Not excluded if the person can maintain hygiene practices to minimise the risk of transmission. If the person cannot comply with these practices (e.g. because they are too young), they should be excluded until the scres are dry.  Sores should be covered with a dressing, where possible	Not excluded

•	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	Not excluded If the person is severely immune compromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Human parvovirus B19 (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)	Not excluded	Not excluded
$\vdash$	Hydatid disease	Not excluded	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has started.  Any sores on exposed skin should be covered with a watertight dressing	Not excluded
<b>F</b>	Influenza and Influenza-like linesses	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
▶	Listeriosis	Not excluded	Not excluded
•	Measles 🕿	Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash	Immunised and Immune contacts are not excluded. For non-Immunised contacts, contact Centre for Disease Control for specialist advice. All Immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after the appearance of the rash in the last case
<b>&gt;</b>	Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Meningococcal Infection	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed	Not excluded. Contact Centre for Disease Control for specialist advice about antibiotics and/or vaccination for people who were in the same room as the case
▶	Molluscum contagiosum	Not excluded	Not excluded
•	Mumps	Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Norovirus	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours	Not excluded
•	Perhussis (whooping cough)	Exclude until 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment, or for 21 days from the onset of coughing	Contact Centre for Disease Control for specialist advice about excluding non-vaccinated and incompletely vaccinated contacts, or antibiotics
▶	Pneumococcal disease	Exclude until person is well	Not excluded
▶	Roseola	Not excluded	Not excluded
▶	Ross River virus	Not excluded	Not excluded
_	Rotavirus Infection	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vamiting for 24 hours <sup>b</sup>	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until the person has fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash	Not excluded
•	Salmonellosis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup>	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Scables	Exclude until the day after starting appropriate treatment	Not excluded
•	Shigellosis	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>6</sup>	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well	Not excluded
•	Toxoplasmosis	Not excluded	Not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Tuberculosis (TB)	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from the appropriate health authority	Not excluded. Contact Centre for Disease Control for specialist advice about screening, antibiotics or specialist TB clinics
•	Varicella (chickenpox)	Exclude until all blisters have dried—this is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appeared in non- immunised children, and less in immunised children	Any child with an Immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection as they are at high risk of developing severe disease. Otherwise, not excluded
<b>&gt;</b>	Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours <sup>b</sup>	Not excluded
Þ	Worms	Exclude if loose bowel motions are occurring.  Exclusion is not necessary if treatment has occurred	Not excluded

- a The definition of 'contacts' will vary according to the disease—refer to the specific fact sheet for more information.
- b If the cause is unknown, possible exclusion for 48 hours until the cause is identified. However, educators and other staff who have a food handling role should always be excluded until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 48 hours. Adapted from SA Health Communicable Disease Control Branch http://www.dh.sa.gov. au/pehs/ygw/index.htm. Note that exclusion advice is consistent with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia Series of National Guidelines (SoNGs), where available.
- Telephone Centre for Disease Control in your district so that immediate preventive public health measures can be undertaken. If you notice a cluster (several cases) of any of the above listed conditions in children or staff at your facility, please telephone Centre for Disease Control for advice and educational materials.

#### **MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

#### Administering Medication at the preschool:

Staff will not administer any medication without the written authorisation from the parents/guardians and a Health Care Plan. All medication is stored in the first aid cupboard out of the reach of children. All medication should have a pharmacist label, displaying the patient's name, the name of the medication, dosage, frequency of administration, the date of dispensing and the expiration of the medication.

#### Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes:

To ensure staff are adequately prepared and informed of your child's needs, children with asthma, anaphylaxis or diabetes must have a current action plan from a doctor. This must be provided to the preschool prior to starting.

#### **TOILETING**

Toilet training is a tricky new skill for children to learn. We believe toileting is a learning time for each child. Nhulunbuy Preschool staff will interact in a positive manner during toileting procedures and support children to develop independent self-help skills in this area.

We encourage you to speak with us if your child is toilet training or having toileting issues so that we can work together to support your child in developing this skill in a positive and encouraging manner.

#### **FOOD**

Please ensure you pack a healthy lunch box for your child, ensuring you pack enough food and avoid unhealthy snacks.



#### **EXCURSIONS**

At enrolment you will be asked to sign an excursion parent consent form. This allows us to take the children to and from the primary school throughout the year as part of our transitioning to school plan. In addition to regular visits to the primary school for PMP. We also attend special 'whole school' events such as:

- Assembly
- Science Fair
- Book Week
- Harmony Day
- Easter Parade

#### UNIFORMS

Nhulunbuy Preschool encourages students to wear our preschool t-shirts and hats. These are available for sale at the primary school front office, in sizes 4-8.

#### **RECYCLING**

Just about everything has more than one use. We love to recycle so please bring in your egg cartons, meat trays, cardboard boxes and cylinders, magazines, cotton reels, wool and material scraps, paper and cardboard off cuts, plastic bottles, boxes and more!

Please note that Department policy prohibits us from accepting the cardboard inner tubes of toilet rolls.

We also have scrap buckets for food scraps at eating times.





#### **CYCLONES**

If a cyclone warning is broadcast outside school hours do not send your child/ren to preschool. If a cyclone warning is given during school hours, parents are to collect their children from the classroom upon advice from emergency services or the media. Students who have not been collected will be taken to the nearest cyclone shelter that is located at the **Gove District Hospital**.

When the township is on CYCLONE WATCH the school will continue to operate as usual. If a CYCLONE WARNING is declared outside of normal school hours, students are not to return to school until the warning is cancelled.

#### FIRE, BOMB AND EARTHQUAKE

Ensuring the safety and the welfare of our students and staff at Nhulunbuy Preschool is high priority. As part of maintaining this, staff and students practise safety drills throughout the year. These drills allow us to teach the children important safety skills, consistently evaluate our emergency operation plans and improve response skills within the team.

We discuss drills and emergencies with our students regularly within our program and emphasise that by practising safety procedures we will know what to do and how to do it if an emergency occurs and not be afraid when the alarm is sounded.

#### MOSQUITOE REPELLENT AND SUNSCREEN

Throughout the year, there are times when your child will need protection from mosquitoes. Please ensure you apply a suitable repellent to your child before they come to preschool.

Please also apply sunscreen to your child to ensure protection against the sun.

#### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents contribute significantly to preschool life in many ways and are always welcome.

At the start of each day, children will have a settling activity on their arrival at preschool. This is an excellent opportunity for parents and friends to share some fun learning time with the children.

Other ways you may be able to get involved/help out are:

- Joining the Preschool Parent Committee
- Sharing your skills and interests e.g. craft, cooking, music, story-telling
- Assisting with laundry/cleaning
- Maintaining and repairing equipment and bikes
- Working bees



## **Nhulunbuy Preschool Parent Committee**



We are looking for parents who would like to join us in making NPS Preschool the very best it can be.

The Preschool Parent Committee will meet every term to discuss the needs of the preschool, plan for the future, organise fundraising ideas and help the preschool connect with the community.

We value and encourage family involvement at NPS Preschool. Information will be sent out via Seesaw during Term 1 with the dates for our Preschool Parent Committee meetings.

#### **COMMUNICATION**

Our primary method of communication with caregivers and parents is the Seesaw app. Please see your classroom teacher to gain access to your child's class page.

We encourage you to speak with us about your concerns, successes and perspective related to your child's preschool experience.

Morning times can be busy so if you can't catch us then please book in time after 2:30pm to have a chat. We believe that by working together we will nurture your child's individual development and build their confidence in who they are.

#### STUDENT BEHAVIOUR

Nhulunbuy Preschool is committed to ensuring that every day, every student is learning and achieving within a safe, supportive learning environment. Our preschool promotes a positive and inclusive school community that affirms the rights of all members to feel safe and be safe at school.

We have a commitment to ensuring that self-respect, caring for and respecting the beliefs, rights and property of others is paramount.

#### RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS:

- All students have the right to learn and play in a safe, positive learning environment, free from negative interference.
- All staff have the right to perform their duties in a safe, respectful, positive environment.
- All parents have a right to be informed and involved in their child's education.
- All people have the right to be treated with kindness, fairness, respect and dignity.

#### WHAT IS UNACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOUR?

Any behaviour that impacts the safety of students and staff or disrupts the teaching and learning is not acceptable. Nhulunbuy Primary School aims to create a learning environment that is free from bullying, aggression, violence and disruption.

Preschool staff are guided by the Nhulunbuy Primary Schools Safe Schools policy.

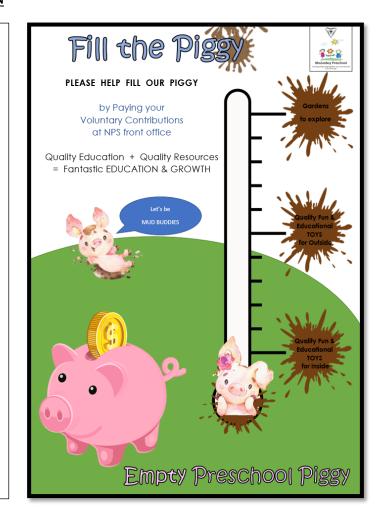
#### PRESCHOOL PARENT VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

Voluntary contributions are a wonderful way to support your preschool in continuing to maintain high quality programs and rich learning opportunities for your children.

The purchase of many of the resources your children will be enjoying during their time at preschool has been made possible by the voluntary \$100 contribution of families in former years.

Next year we are hoping to continue in our endeavour to upgrade our outside play area and gardens and your contributions will help us reach our goal much faster!

To make your 2023 contribution or to find out more information please contact the front office at Nhulunbuy Primary School.





# Getting ready for Preschool

To prepare your child you can:

- · enrol your child in preschool
- encourage your child to be independent
- · have a daily routine
- get to know your school
- · get involved with your school.

Preschool is not compulsory, but can help prepare your child for school.

### Encourage your child to be independent

You should practice all of the following tasks with your child:

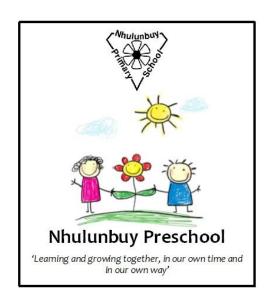
- pack and carry their school bag
- put on their shoes
- manage their clothes
- eat and drink without help
- go to the toilet on their own
- · use tissues to blow their nose
- · recognise their belongings.

## Have a daily routine

You should set up a daily routine that includes all of the following:

- go to bed early
- wake up at a set time with time to get ready
- have a healthy breakfast
- prepare a healthy lunch, including items that may be in your child's lunchbox for school
- talk about what to expect during the school day
- · make time for physical activities.

Be flexible, as it may take time for your child to adjust to their new routine.



Thank you for choosing Nhulunbuy Preschool.

We warmly welcome you and your family and look forward to sharing this amazing introduction into schooling with you and your child.