



Shine Bright Spring Gully Kindergarten's Frequently Asked Questions

Foregrounding Aboriginal Perspectives:

We build relationships and engage with the local community in the following ways:

- ✚ All children, in all groups, have access to a community-based bush kindergarten program throughout the year. We utilise the natural bush elements, the children's playground and sporting amenities that surround us in the Spring Gully community, during our normal kindergarten sessions.
- ✚ We have sought permission from the local Dja Dja Wurrung clans to use their language for our group names, and these have been adopted to reflect our sense of place, respect for and connection with the traditional owners of the Country in which we live, learn, and play on.
 - Guwak (Kookaburra) 4YO group
 - Gurri (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) 4YO group
 - Wila (Brush Tail Possum) 3YO group
- ✚ We plan excursions and incursions throughout the year so children can learn from others within the community- Coliban Water, the Responsible Pet Program, The Discovery Centre, The Melbourne Museum, the Bendigo Library, taking walks around our local community, visiting local schools and so on.

Collaborative Generative Thinking

The expertise of families is recognised, and they share in the decision making about the children's learning and wellbeing, this occurs in the following ways:

- ✚ Parents can contribute to the children's programs through providing feedback, suggestions, and ideas and these can be done via face-to-face conversations, through Storypark or in the parent section of your child's group's floorbook.
- ✚ There is a family and child section available on your child's Individual Learning Plan (IEP) for families and the child to share all the things you want us to know about your family and the child before they start with us at kindergarten. Educators use this information to plan and prepare for your child before they start kindergarten with us.

Families have opportunity to be involved in our service by:

- ✚ Families are invited to attend special events and celebrations at kindergarten throughout the year. These can include Welcome picnics, friends and family days and end of year celebrations (Co-vid safe plan permitting)
- ✚ Parents can join the Parent Advisory Group (PAG) who meet once per term to plan ways for the kindergarten community to come together at community events and organise fundraising events for the kindergarten.
- ✚ Through donating recyclable materials and loose parts to our kindergarten
- ✚ Sharing special skills or talents with us at kindergarten . We enjoy cooking, music, gardening and learning new things from our family members at kindergarten.
- ✚ Volunteering to help with gardening, and looking after the chooks and birds on weekends, and throughout the school holidays.
- ✚ Helping at working bees, putting together resources, and fixing them, as needed.



- ✚ Spending time with your child at kindergarten by choosing a day and time that suits you on our 'Stay and Play' roster. This is an opportunity for families to spend time with your child, especially those family members who don't get an opportunity to do drop off and pick up and meet their child's friends and educators.
- ✚ Helping with excursions and incursions throughout the year

Opening to Complexity:

We promote child agency by:

- ✚ Our programs with children encourage a sense of wonder, a feeling of belonging and a love of the land, plants, and animals so that they develop lifelong, respectful relationships with the environment, for a sustainable future. Our image of the child is that they are capable, competent, intelligent, have strong imaginations, and play is their life's work.
- ✚ We will inspire children to have a love of learning, and to create a generation of thinkers and doers, with lots of time to play, loose parts, access to nature and sensory play, bush kinder, excursions in our local community, and authentic materials to engage with.
- ✚ We strive to listen to children and use their voices to plan a responsive program that extends their thinking about concepts in life – relationships, social skills, communication skills, active community participation and listening to their bodies and looking after ourselves in a holistic way.

Every Moment Matters:

Our program, including routines in organised in ways that maximize opportunities for each children's learning. A normal day at our kindergarten usually runs like:

- ✚ Drop off generally occurs at the front door or by families walking their child through the building, putting their lunch boxes and drink bottles on the trolley, and putting their bags away in their locker. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before choosing a place to play inside or outside.
- ✚ Morning tea is held after a short morning meeting with the children and is sometimes progressive (children eat when ready) or can be as a group.
- ✚ Children will then continue indoor outdoor play until we get ready for lunch. Prior to lunch we will have a short group time. Children will then continue to undertake indoor/outdoor play, have afternoon tea and finish with pack up time and a group time, which usually includes songs, a story, or a group game.
- ✚ Parents enter the side gate and children are collected from kindergarten outside near the children's bathroom (Co-vid safe plan).

Meaningful Documentation:

Our Educational Program is shared with families in many ways, here are some of them:

- ✚ Through the online program Storypark, as well as through our program floorbook and face to face conversations.

Each child's learning and development is assessed as part of an ongoing cycle of planning, documenting and evaluation, we share this with families and seek their involvement by:

- ✚ We have parent / teacher interviews in terms 1, 2 and 3, for all groups, where parents are given the opportunity to set goals for their child and these are discussed at each meeting.



- ✚ Each child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and this document is used to track your child's learning and development towards their individual goals.
- ✚ Parents are welcome to speak with their child's teacher at any time they have concerns, and an appointment can be made at a time that is convenient for all.

Keeping the Joy:

We value:

- ✚ Relationships with children, families, and each other, building a sense of community at Spring Gully kindergarten where everyone belongs.
- ✚ The natural environment – we have a natural play space at our kindergarten that affords our children with a lot of learning opportunities in relation to loose parts, sustainability, respect for the environment and an opportunity to engage in play with all of their senses.
- ✚ Indoor and outdoor play – children at our kinder have the freedom to move between our indoor and outdoor spaces across the day.
- ✚ The importance of social and emotional development – we feel that this is as, if not more, important than traditional academic learning. It helps children learn how to be a kind, caring and contributing member of their local community.

Being Professional:

Educators Strive to:

- ✚ Build warm and trusting relationships with children and families in their group throughout the kindergarten year.
- ✚ Provide children with holistic programs that help children grow and enable them to make connections with themselves, with others and with the broader community.
- ✚ Reflect often about the programs we offer children and undertake professional development to help us learn new ways to support children and their families and provide children with a diverse range of experiences at our kindergarten. We see ourselves as learners, learning alongside our children and families.