



Maiden Gully Early Years Hub Frequently Asked Questions

When will the Maiden Gully Early Years Hub open?

Monday 18th January, 2021

What are the hours of operation?

7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday

Why would I send my child to Maiden Gully Early Years Hub?

1. Fully bachelor qualified Early Years Childhood Teachers in the 4 year old kindergarten rooms, daily from 8.30am to 4.00pm.
2. Fully bachelor qualified Early Years Childhood Teachers in the 3 year old rooms, daily from 8.30am to 4.00pm.
3. 0 to 2 year old rooms have fully bachelor qualified Early Years Childhood Teachers overseeing educational programs.
4. State of art building that is purpose built with airy and light filled rooms. Large natural/bush gardens; increasingly evidence says that children's inner wellbeing is benefitted by being outdoors as the natural environment enhances their health, learning and behaviour by supporting personal and social development, as well as physical and mental health.
5. Maternal Health Nurses and allied health specialist support available from the same location with a focus on early intervention.

What services will the Maiden Gully Early Years Hub offer?

1. Funded 4 year old kindergarten, 8.30am to 4.00pm daily. Families are funded for 15 hours (2 days per week) for 40 weeks in a year (term breaks and end of year excluded),
2. Before and after kindergarten care, 7:00am to 8:30am and 4:00pm to 6:00pm,
3. 3 year old kindergarten, 8:30am to 4:00pm daily. This program will run as kindergarten but is referred to as long day care for three year olds. This has been structured this way because it is more affordable for families - 3 year old kindergarten is not currently Government funded/subsidised in Bendigo, whereas long day care attracts child care subsidies. A fully qualified Bachelor Early Years Childhood Teacher will be in each room from 8.30am to 4.00pm daily,
4. Long day care for ages 0 to 5/6 years old, full days are available,
5. Long day care ages 0 to 5/6 years old, casual days are available, and



6. Two full time Maternal and Child Health Nurses will be located on site at all times. We are also investigating further allied health opportunities including Art, Speech and Occupational Therapy to be available for families to utilise onsite.

What will the 4 year old kindergarten days and times be for 2021?

4 year old kindergarten will be held on Tuesday's and Thursday's, 8.30am to 4.00pm daily. Families who have enrolled will be sent confirmation details in due course.

How do I enrol my child to attend?

Please refer to the Maiden Gully Early Years Hub - How to enrol your child chart, [click here](#)

What costs are involved?

- \$130 per day for long day care
- \$135 per day for casual long day care
- 4 year old kindergarten costs will be approximately \$1,600 for the full year (this includes 2 days per week, 8.30am to 4.00pm for 40 weeks of the year, term breaks and year end are excluded). \$1,600 is not payable by families who hold a relevant concession card. Additional days of kindergarten (on top of the 2 days per week that are funded) can be booked as long day care and would be at the cost of long day care (\$130 per day).
- Before kindergarten care, 7.00am to 8.30am will cost \$22 per day (child care subsidy can be applied against this cost).
- After kindergarten care, 4.00pm to 6.00pm will cost \$30 (child care subsidy can be applied against this cost).

What sort of food will my child receive?

Children will be provided nutritious meals prepared from high quality fresh food sourced locally (where possible) that caters for each child's individual needs including strict attention to allergies and intolerances, and family culture.

What's so great about being a not for profit community based organisation?

Our focus is on providing high quality education to our local community as we understand and advocate for the benefits that children experience throughout their lives if they are provided with high quality education in their early years.



We are not focused on making large profits which are reflected in the prices we charge. Any profits that we might make are re-invested back into the services we operate.

We believe our organisation plays a vital role in building and strengthening communities through early years education.

How is this early years learning centre different from others?

The Shine Bright Early Years Hub will be a teaching and research based facility, reflecting latest studies in early years education. This will be via strong partnerships with La Trobe University, Bendigo TAFE and other tertiary institutions and registered training organisations. This teaching facility provides opportunities for students to observe best practice via the observation rooms. We have various meeting rooms where students and staff can attend learning and discussion groups and other professional development opportunities. The Hub will have capacity to facilitate parenting sessions and other opportunities for parent involvement.

What is the benefit of having integrated support via allied health and maternal child health staff onsite?

Families and children who have additional support needs will have direct access to allied health professionals and maternal child health nurses all on the one site. Educators will develop strong working relationships with these professionals to provide wrap around support to families and children.

Why is it important to have highly qualified and experienced staff in every room?

Current research supports that highly qualified and experienced staff are best equipped to enhance and support children's learning and development.

Can I use the observation rooms? What would I see?

Yes, you will see children participating in the educational program, interacting with each other, the educators and the learning environment.

Why is it important to have beautiful calm sleeping environments?

Sleep is an important element for a child's health and development, a calm sleeping environment will be conducive for promoting restful sleep.

What are Individual Education Plans (IEP)?

All children enrolled in a Shine Bright service will have an Individual Education Plan which is developed together between families and educators. The plan collects information from families and children about what is important to them, their interests and strengths. Learning Goals are set for each child and teaching strategies developed in collaboration between families and



educators. Learning Review Days are held three times a year with families to review and refine the IEP to ensure that goals are being worked towards and remain appropriate. Goals and teaching strategies can then be adjusted or changed to ensure the best learning outcomes are achieved for every child.

Why are quality relationships so important to us?

Trusting relationships with caring adults provide children with a secure base for exploration and learning. They nurture children's sense of wellbeing and resilience. Supportive relationships enable children to learn about negotiation, problem solving, conflict resolution, listening and collaboration. Through a network of secure relationships children develop confidence and feel respected and valued. They become increasingly able to recognise feeling in themselves and others and to interact positively with those around them. Educators who give priority to nurturing relationships and providing children with emotional support help children to develop their social skills and to be respectful members of a group.

Relationships between families and educators recognise that families are the first key influence on their child's learning and development. Families have a unique perspective on their child and valuable information about their child's strengths, interests and abilities.

Genuine partnerships with families recognises the uniqueness of each family with different cultural perspectives, values and priorities and builds links between home and the early learning service to provide for consistency for each child.

What does culturally safe mean?

Shine Bright services and employees are respectful and inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their rich living culture as Australia's First Nations People. This is reflected in our values, inclusive educational programs, induction processes and activities in everyday practices in our kindergartens, early learning centres and office environments. In being respectful we build on our relationships, which will create culturally safe environments for families. We will always strive to create an environment where every child and family will feel that their sense of self, their sense of identity and culture is valued and respected. We truly believe this is especially crucial to our First Nations People but also the many other rich cultures from elsewhere in the world that have become a part of our Australian community.

What is a Bush Kinder/Nature Play setting?

A bush kinder, nature play setting is an outdoor space made up of natural materials and plants and very little if any built infrastructure or man-made resources, children interact with the natural environment and each other, developing their imaginations, they explore, discover and learn as they play and connect with country.



Playing in natural outdoor environments grows resilience, self-confidence, initiative, and creativity. It encourages the joy of movement; it nurtures imagination, experimentation, friendships, social connections and behaviour. Children can build a connection with nature and a desire to protect it.

Why does my child need orientation?

An extensive orientation program will mean that the process of commencing at Shine Bright Maiden Gully Early Years Hub will be a smooth and positive experience for your child and your family.

Participating in the orientation process will provide opportunities for a shared understanding between early childhood educators and children and families. This means that information about each child is well understood and valued, children have an opportunity to have their say and families can tell us about what is important to them.

During the process children have time to become familiar with their new environment; they meet their educators and the other children and start to get to know each other.

What does above staff ratio mean?

The Education and Care Services National Regulation specify minimum staff to child ratios for children being educated and cared for. The Maiden Gully Early Years Hub will have above minimum required qualified educators for each age group of children in each room. This will allow for greater opportunities for quality interactions with children and improved learning outcomes.

What does above space ratios mean?

The Education and Care Services National Regulation specify minimum room and outdoor play space sizes per number of children being educated and cared for. The Maiden Gully Early Years Hub has been designed and built to allow for play spaces that are well above the minimum requirement which will enable children and educators to play and learn in spaces set up to meet the needs of each child. Busy and quiet spaces, active and relaxing spaces, spaces to be in a group and spaces for individual play.