

SWAN HILL SOUTH - ROUTINES FOR KINDERGARTEN

It is important for the children to foster their independence at the beginning of the year. Educators will be taking the time to teach the children self-help skills which will help the children hear the routine, see what it looks like and follow it before it becomes completely understood. When we organise our kindergarten classroom this is what we consider:

- Entrance Routine – entering via Willick St, greeting educators, placing drink bottle and fruit/vegetable on trolley, bag into locker, lunch into the fridge and placing a towel on a hook.
- Attendance Routine – doors open at 8.30am Pelicans. 8.45am Honeyeaters.
- Dismissal Routine - The children meet at 1.15pm (Honeyeaters) and 3.30pm (Pelicans) inside on the carpet for some songs, stories, games and to collect artworks before waiting for doors to open and their name to be called when educators spot their families. (Honeyeaters) depart at 1.45pm and (Pelicans) at 4.00pm.
- Stop and Listen Routine – There can be times when the Teacher will need the children to stop and listen in case of an emergency e.g. fire drill evacuation which are conducted twice per term. Or group meetings regarding program/safety.
- Tidy-up Routine – This is a big job; however, the children are being taught their responsibilities such as independently returning materials to their place, and where to go once they have tidied up.
- Routines for Specific Situations:
 - • Outdoor Play – Educators start the day with a variety of equipment and children are taught safety regarding the use of outdoor equipment, including how it is accessed and put away. The children are also taught to be socially responsible and show respect for the kindergarten environment and equipment.
 - • Portfolio – This is dated from the first day and data is collected along the way with children's work (paintings, drawings, photos, and celebrations) to show growth over time.
 - • Snack – There are 3 snacks throughout the day for long days and two for short days provided by families. The group come together for a staggered morning tea between 9.30 and 10.30am and educators provide milk, water and invite children to help prepare the shared fruit and vegetables supplied by families. Educators also discuss "every day" food alternatives (Some other great examples are yoghurt and cheese) and teach the children how to dispose of their waste. For lunch, we come together between 12.00 to 12.30 pm and it is always great to have high energy foods such as (sandwiches, wraps, pasta, and rice to name a few). The group come together for afternoon tea at 2.30pm (long days) and are then asked to pack their lunchboxes into their bags.
 - • Bathroom and Water Fountain: Children have access to the bathroom and water fountain at all times to meet their needs. In the hotter weather, educators refill drinkers with cold water at the children's request.