

COOLANGARRAS BARMAH

INFORMATION BOOKLET



SPENCER PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

BRIEF HISTORY



The Coolangarras Barmah Aboriginal Kindy commenced in 1964 as a playgroup for Aboriginal Children and in 1974 was converted into a Kindergarten when a group of volunteers organised a kindergarten session at the Buffs Hall (around where Dog Rock Motel now stands). Following this the Kindy, plus volunteer staff and drivers, moved to the upper level of what is now St Joseph's Community Centre.

Another move saw the Kindergarten occupying the Wesley Church Hall in Duke Street. Whilst there, paid staff were appointed and the centre came under the administration of the WA Pre-school Board and then the Education Department of WA. Further moves followed, first to the Harold Smith Hockey Pavilion at Lockyer and then to the

old St Joseph's School (now demolished) in Aberdeen Street.

For some years the Kindy shared accommodation on Albany Highway with first the Mt Melville Special School and then the Edith Cowan Albany Campus.

Currently the Kindy occupies a delightful centre in Mokare Road, with a building on Spencer Park Primary School site should there ever be a need to move from the present accommodation.

In 2000 the Kindy relinquished its Independent Community status to become part of Spencer Park Primary School.

Thanks to the generosity of the Uniting Church, the Kindy was able to purchase a small bus. With a grant from the Lotteries Commission this was upgraded to a larger bus. Now, as part of the Spencer Park Primary School, a bus is provided for the Kindy by the Department of Education WA.

Various annual donations from the Save the Children Fund in the early years have enabled the Kindy to purchase some excellent equipment. Money from the sale of the bus was used to pay for the bike path and verandah area.

Other money saved by the Coolangarras kindy has been used to provide extra sun shelter, bikes, large equipment, etc.

CONTACTS

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INTRODUCTION

The school would like to welcome you and your child to Coolangarras Barmah. We are sure that this year will be enjoyable and rewarding for your child.

Coolangarras Barmah is a culturally inclusive Kindergarten program situated in Mokare Rd in Spencer Park. It is under the umbrella of Spencer Park Primary School, following the same curriculum and educational guidelines and requirements. The teachers at both centres collaborate to maintain similar programs and outcomes. Staff at Coolangarras Barmah attend Professional Development at the school, teach the Auslan sign language and address the school priorities as they do at Spencer Park Kindergarten. As part of our program we often go to the main school to visit the library, attend special days and some assemblies.

There is a distinct Noongar flavour added at Coolangarras Barmah as we include Aboriginal cultural perspectives into our program. Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students are welcome to attend and we have one teacher and two Aboriginal Education Officers on staff. All staff are highly experienced and have run this quality kindergarten program for many years.

We strongly encourage parent engagement and participation in the kindergarten program and welcome parent involvement in the learning process.

The program currently provides a bus service for those students living beyond the Spencer Park area. This service is subject to numbers and location of families.

A close relationship between parent and staff is extremely important to your child's progress so we are taking this opportunity to tell you a little about the procedure at our Centre. If you have any further questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact your staff.

Doors open 8.45am

SESSION TIMES:

9.00am to 2.00pm
Tuesday to Thursday

STAFF 2021

Jill Tysoe, Teacher
Gerry Macaulay, Teacher
Sherrona Clifton, AIEO
Sue-Ellen Minitier, AIEO
Donna Hambley EA

BUS TRANSPORT

The current bus has 12 seats and there is only time for one run. Where possible, parents/carers with their own transport and people living near the Kindy are asked to take responsibility for transporting children to Kindy each day. Thank you for your cooperation.

The centre will open at 8.45am. No child is to be left unattended by an adult. The outdoor playground is out of bounds before kindy starts at 9.00am.



FRUIT TIME AND LUNCH TIME

Please send a piece of fruit/cheese/vegetable or crackers with your child each day. We will prepare the fruit to be shared among all the children. Our session is quite long, your child will also need a small lunch every day eg. a sandwich, salad, crackers or cheese. If your child has no lunch they will be given a piece of fruit. We encourage healthy food at school. Therefore high sugar snacks or drinks are considered home food.



REQUIREMENTS

Children need to bring 2 boxes of tissues each semester. As we do the Breathe, Blow and Cough program daily, extra tissues may be requested throughout the year. Coolangarras has a booklist. Where possible, please provide your child with their requirements.

PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS AT THE END OF THE SESSION

If collecting children please wait outside on the verandah or in the playground until the door is open. A staff member will bring your child to the door **ONLY** when you are sighted outside.

Please remember to inform us by note or telephone if there is any variation to the normal arrangements for collecting your child. We would obviously prefer to see your child going home with an adult.

Please note the Centre's hours and if you have a special problem or are unavoidably delayed please do ring or see us personally about it. Parents of bus children must ensure they are at home by 2.00pm for children to be dropped off.

We need to know your:

- Address
- Telephone number
- Emergency contact (a vital piece of information)

If your number or address changes you must let us know immediately.

If your child has a medical condition or any little fears that we should be aware of please don't hesitate to speak to us about them.



PARENT PARTICIPATION

We welcome every opportunity for parent participation at the Centre. If you attend the Centre as a helper you will gain an understanding of what we are doing and watch your child's interaction with his/her friends and get to know them. Fathers, grandparents, uncles, aunties, friends and neighbours are welcome also.

ENROLMENT

Places are reserved for those students who will turn 4 by 30 June. A Birth Certificate and Current record of Immunisation must be provided with the Enrolment. Immunisation records are available by

- Phoning the AIR on 1800 653 809
- Visiting your local Medicare centre
- Using your Medicare online account through myGov (<https://my.gov.au>) using the Express Plus Medicare Mobile app (<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/express-plus-mobile-apps>).

O-3 YEAR OLD KINDILINK PROGRAM

KindiLink began as a play-and-learn initiative for 3 year old Aboriginal children who attend with a parent/carer. KindiLink is now for birth to three year old children attending with a parent/carer and only at the selected KindiLink schools.

KindiLink provides six hours a week of high quality play-and-learn sessions for children and their parent/carer at the participating schools, at no cost to families, with families supported to be actively involved in the activities with their children.

KindiLink focuses on developing the social, emotional, language and cognitive capabilities of children. KindiLink aims to support children's development in the years before they start Kindergarten.

Monday and Friday at Coolangarras Barmah on Mokare Road from 9.00am to 12.00pm.

Please bring a hat and piece of fruit.

LABELLING ITEMS

As it upsets children to lose their belongings please help by clearly labelling everything that children bring or wear to the Centre. Self care will be stressed at the Centre so please encourage your child to learn to zip, button and put on his own shoes/sandals and clothes.

Please dress them in shoes and clothes they can put on/off themselves. Velcro shoes are a good idea.

Please discourage your child from bringing toys and personal treasures to the Centre as these are easily damaged or lost.

CLOTHING

For your own peace of mind please don't dress your child in his/her best clothes when he/she is coming to the Centre. Even though aprons are worn for messy activities it is very difficult for children to come home perfectly clean each day (or staff for that matter). Easily washed clothes are the most practical for the children to wear. Should the children get paint on their clothes, soak and wash in cold water.

Please discourage children coming dressed in their beautiful 'princess' and 'fairy' costumes. They get in the way of their play and work.



- Please send a change of clothes each day in case of toileting accidents. We have run out of spare clothes.
- Hats will be worn outside all year long. Children are encouraged to bring their own. Hats are compulsory in Terms 1 and 4. **NO HAT - NO PLAY!**

BIRTHDAYS

We are very happy for your child to share a birthday treat with the other children on or near his/her birthday if you wish. You may send a cake (large enough to be cut into about 20 pieces) or small cup cakes or anything else you prefer.



ABSENCE FROM KINDERGARTEN

When your child is absent from Kindergarten please provide a reason to staff as absences are recorded. Notification can be by phone or letter. If you know that your child will be away for an extended time, due to holidays or illness, please let us know.

OUTINGS

Parents are encouraged to join us for special days and various outings during the term. Children really enjoy having family along.

KID OF THE WEEK



Each child will invite their family at least once a year for Kid of the Week. Family members and friends will come to Kindy and share a special mat session with us to see what the children learn. We celebrate your child and help them feel special.

AMBULANCE COVER

There is no Ambulance Cover provided by the Department of Education WA. Please be aware that if the centre calls an ambulance for your child, parents are responsible for this cost.

HEALTH COVER

The Department of Education WA does not provide health cover for students. Medical and hospital costs associated with any injury sustained at the centre are the responsibility of parents.

PAYMENT OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

We request that a Voluntary Contribution of \$30 per year be paid at the Spencer Park Primary School office at the beginning of the school year. These funds are used for the purchase of resources to support the Kindergarten program.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES



For your information the following are the exclusion periods for common infectious diseases.

Chicken Pox: Exclude child from Kindy. Re-admit 10 days from onset if well, or on presentation of medical certificate that the child is no longer infectious.

Measles: Exclude child from Kindy. Re-admit on medical certificate of recovery or 7 days from appearance of rash.

Mumps: Exclude child from Kindy. Re-admit on medical certificate of recovery or 24 days from onset if well.

Head Lice: Parents are asked to REGULARLY check their children's hair for lice. A child may be excluded from Kindy if they are found to have head lice. After treatment children may return to school. Any nit (egg) that is 1.5cm away from the scalp is either dead or will not hatch. Bearing this in mind, all long hair must be tied back and nits removed. A treatment information package is available at school.

Ringworm: Exclude child from Kindy. Re-admit on medical certificate that the child is no longer infectious.

Contacts of any of these diseases are not to be excluded from Kindy.

PLAY TODAY

You say you love your children,
And are concerned what they learn today?
So am I - that's why I'm providing
A variety of games to play.
You're asking me the value
Of blocks and other such play?
Your daughter creating a tower:
She may be a builder some day.
You're saying you don't want your son
To play in that 'sissy' way?
He's learning to cuddle a doll:
He may be a father some day
You're questioning the interest centres:
They just look like useless play?
Your children are making choices:
They'll be out on their own some day
You're worried your children aren't learning
And later they'll have to pay?
They're learning a pattern for learning:
For they'll be learners always.



