


Enrolling in Kindergarten



**Freshwater
Creek**
Steiner School

A child wearing a blue and orange striped knit hat and a blue long-sleeved shirt is kneeling on a grassy area covered with fallen autumn leaves. The child is holding a small cluster of yellow and orange leaves. In the background, there is a wooden fence, a tree, and a small wooden structure. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a garden or play area.

**If a child in their play has been able to give up
their whole living-being to the world around,
they will be able, in the serious tasks of later life,
to devote themselves to the service of the world.**

~Rudolf Steiner~

About Kindergarten

Our programs are based on the educational philosophy of Rudolf Steiner.

- ❖ Honouring each phase of early childhood
- ❖ Allowing development to take its natural course
- ❖ Seeing imitation rather than direct instruction as the effective way to learn during early childhood
- ❖ Seeing play as the child's natural and appropriate form of expression
- ❖ Giving attention to healthy physical development as the main focus in the early years
- ❖ Fostering healthy development of the senses: particularly senses of touch, movement, balance and of own well-being.
- ❖ We use the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF) to guide the practice in the Kindergarten
- ❖ In In 2018 the Freshwater Creek Steiner Early Childhood Centre became the first in Victoria to be accepted as a member of the Australian Association of Rudolf Steiner Early Childhood Educators (AARSECE), giving us international recognition as a quality Steiner Early Childhood Centre.





Application and Enrolment

We invite you to book a tour to gain an understanding of what happens in the kindergarten. Tours can be booked via the Enrolments page of our website: fwcss.vic.edu.au.

Teachers hold kindergarten tours monthly for prospective kindergarten enrolments, intending to enrol in the following year.

If you are enrolling after September in the year prior to coming kinder, the kinder teacher will arrange an informal meeting at the kindergarten to meet with you and your child. Teachers also attend an FWCSS Playgroup session for a talk on 'Coming to kindergarten'.

Enrolment packs are available at the tours and forms can be submitted anytime at the school Reception area, or via email to kelli.lavelle@fwcss.vic.edu.au.

- ❖ First round offers are made to existing enrolments in our playgroup and 3-year-old kinder programs in May of the preceding year
- ❖ Second round offers to children on our waiting list are made in June
- ❖ For enrolments beyond next year, please submit an Enrolment Form and you will be placed on our waiting list.

An Enrolment form, Fees schedule, Enrolment policy and parent handbook are available from our website: fwcss.vic.edu.au

What we do in the Kindergarten

We have two mixed aged Kindergarten rooms with a maximum of 17 children per room. One room is called Jerringup (Wadawurrung for Acacia tree); the other is Gnarri (Wadawurrung for Sheoak tree). Each Kinder room has a Teacher and an Assistant. Our sessions are from 9am-3pm Monday to Friday.

3-year-old kindergarten is for children turning 4 years old during the calendar year and is offered for two days per week. 4-year-old kindergarten (the year before school) is for children turning 5 years old during the calendar year and is offered for 3 days per week.

Rhythm and Routine

Rhythm and routine are fundamental to life in the kindergarten. The child finds security and safety in the repeating rhythm and structure of the mornings.

Our days start with outdoor play in our garden, giving all the opportunity to run, climb, swing, hide, build dens, explore, garden, etc.

During 'morning circle', when we all come together, the children join in seasonal songs and verses, finger plays and traditional ring-games.

Lunch provides a time to establish sound social habits: preparing the table, waiting until everybody is ready, saying a verse before eating and a thank you at the end. The food served is provided by the Kindergarten and is wholesome and whenever possible, organic.

Children are welcome (but not required) to join in the daily activities, such as baking bread, chopping vegetables or setting the table.

They can play alone or in groups using all materials available in the kindergarten - indoors and/or in the garden.

Tidying time is initiated by the adults, usually through song, who are quickly joined by the children, returning everything to its rightful place, so that play can begin again the following day.

Story time provides the children with rich and beautiful oral language experiences, offering them a wonderful foundation for the language work that comes later in their education.

Each day has an associated activity, for instance painting on Monday, baking on Tuesday, and so forth.

Our Daily Rhythm

Arrival time ~ 9:00 am

The children are welcome to play or to help with the daily preparation of lunch, and then join their friends in free, creative play.

10 am -Circle Time

We join hands and have circle time where we move together to sing songs, have stories and games, all learned through imitation. Finger games and counting rhymes.

10.30 – Morning Tea

We share a healthy fruit platter.

10.40 Free play

After Circle we get ready to play outside whatever the weather. We have a play house and a sandpit. There is a raised garden bed to tend to and plenty of space for the children to explore. Some children may choose to play inside where there are many natural materials and dolls. They may also offer to assist preparing and setting the table for lunch.

12pm Lunch Time

We sit at the table to enjoy a healthy lunch that the children have helped to prepare. We use organic ingredients whenever possible. During lunch time there is opportunity for the children to share their news and listen to each other.



12.30 Rest Time

All children have a short rest while the teacher quietly plays the lyre.

1.30 Free Play

Children lead imaginative play inside or outside. Drawing and crafts are also provided.

2.45 Story Time

We finish the day with story time. The teacher knows the story by heart and the same story is told daily for the course of the week so that the children can begin to truly understand it. Stories are chosen carefully around the seasons and carry themes that will support the children's social and emotional understanding.

3:00 Hometime

We sing our goodbyes and all go home







Festivals

Seasonal festivals serve to connect humanity with the rhythms of nature and the cosmos.

In kindergarten, the celebration of festivals helps the children to foster a sense of the seasons, the rhythm of the year and a natural reverence for the wonder and beauty of life and nature. The children are actively involved in the preparations for each celebration through activities, songs, rhymes and stories, and parents are invited to join in a festival each term.

Families are also welcome to bring their own cultural festivals to kindergarten.



Birthdays

A birthday is a very special occasion in the kindergarten. Parents are invited to a special story in celebration of their child's birthday.

Prior to the birthday, we ask parents to provide the teacher with the child's 'life story' (a few incidents which have happened during each year of the child's life). These incidents are woven into the child's own birthday story. Through the birthday story, we celebrate the child, their interests and achievements, and aim to build up their self-esteem, self-respect and in turn, reverence for others. Following the story, parents, children and teachers share a morning tea.





We hope that you have enjoyed this small glimpse into the kindergarten world and warmly invite you to view the kindergarten in person, at an upcoming tour.

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