

Playgroup



**Freshwater
Creek**
Steiner School



Observe the children.

Actively meditate.

Follow your intuitions.

Work so that all your actions are worthy of imitation.

~ Rudolf Steiner ~

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Welcome to Playgroup

Session Times

Wednesday 9.00-11.00 am Jerringup room
Friday 9.00-11.00am Gnarri room

Term Dates

Term dates are available on our website: www.fwcss.vic.edu.au

Enrolment form

Available from the office, please return to Playgroup

Fees-per family

Please refer to the FWCSS Fees Schedule, available on our website: www.fwcss.vic.edu.au

- Playgroup fees are paid SEPARATE to School and Kinder fees — you are not invoiced for Playgroup fees.
- Fees are payable PRIOR to each term's commencement.
- Pay fees direct to School office or via Bendigo Bank:

Freshwater Creek Steiner School
BSB: 633 000 Account: 130 168 859
Reference: **Your child's name** and '**Playgroup**'

What to bring

- Clothing suitable for outdoor play- as needed -sunhat, beanie, coat, gum boots.
- A piece of fruit for morning tea.
- You are welcome to bring along your own craft projects.

Background

Local Steiner-inspired playgroups began in Geelong in the 1990s and the "Friend-in-hand Kindergarten" opened in 1996. The Geelong Rudolf Steiner School started in 2000 and moved to Freshwater Creek in 2004. Freshwater Creek Steiner School currently offers two playgroups per week, 3YO and 4YO Kindergarten programs and Prep to Class Six. As a Playgroup family you become members of the Freshwater Creek Steiner School Association Incorporated and are welcome to be involved in the following:-talks at the school, Parents and Friends gatherings, Craft Circle, Community choir, Parent Library, School Council, Festivals, Fairs, and to receive the school newsletter.

You are warmly welcomed into the FWCSS community.

Our Rhythm

Each session has the same flow...

Arrival – kneading buns – circle time – indoor play – morning tea - outdoor play – story time – goodbye verse – home time.

Our Focus

- To offer parent and child groups that are inspired by Rudolf Steiner and the Early Childhood movement, which has grown from his life's work.
- For your child to be immersed in free play. Play that is in nature, is imaginative, unhurried, and unaffected by screens.
- For you to find an oasis of nourishment, peace and friendship; a chance to meet like-minded families, to learn new crafts and enjoy warm company.

Our Inspiration

We listen to fairy tales, nature stories, nursery rhymes and songs, participating in activities and rituals which remain the same from week to week. Through these, the child experiences the richness of folk wisdom, basic life truths and comforting rhythms of life. The celebration of seasonal festivals adds to our enjoyment of the year's rhythm.

The natural world inspires our indoor and outdoor play space. Timber, stone, bamboo, shells, wool, silk, cotton, willow, and seed pods are chosen for their inherent beauty and the open-ended qualities that they provide for our play-based curriculum.

Belonging

Playgroup is held in our Gnarri and Jerringup Kindergarten rooms.

We want you to feel comfortable here and have a sense of being 'at home'. Everyday tasks such as sweeping, cleaning, dusting, tidying, polishing, repairing, and gardening are done with care and devotion. Be encouraged to take initiative with these activities in the playgroup room and to bring along your own craft project from home. Occasionally there will be a group activity for the children or parents, however our focus is not on 'time-fillers' each week, but on allowing your child the space to explore and play.

Our aim is for a positive and nourishing time for all. As adults we can support this by bringing consciousness to our experience at playgroup. Be mindful of your words and actions, be welcoming to newcomers and supportive of one another and our children. Recognise that it may take time to settle into your group and a new routine/experience. If your child is unwell or unsettled during playgroup it's okay to stay home or leave early.

Everyone needs to feel safe at playgroup. Quiet and kind words, gentle hands, considerate manners and sharing are our Golden Rules. We will always have opportunities to say sorry, to learn, to do better next time. Life is a work in progress for us all. Remember to model the behaviour we wish to see in our children. If your child is disruptive, please ensure their calm removal (to another space, or away from others) or redirection of your child to a 'task' or 'job' they can help you with. It is okay for us to say 'sorry' and use our manners as needed on behalf of our children.

If you need to speak to another parent or the playgroup leader, make a time to do so outside of playgroup. If a child is repeatedly disruptive and hurting others and no satisfactory solution can be found, the family will be asked to take a break from Playgroup.

Be clear in yourself why you are coming to playgroup and your expectations for your child. Use simple, clear and firm words when required. Remember you are the parent and you are responsible for your child at all times at playgroup.

Using positive words and actions works wonders "walking inside", "time for shoes on", "quiet voices inside", "you may hang up your coat" are examples.

Our Striving

Parenting can be a challenging and dynamic journey. Self-education for personal growth and development can benefit you and your family immensely. Our children give us many opportunities every day to practise! Rudolf Steiner said the education of the little child should consist principally of the self-education of those around her: the task in these early years being to make ourselves worthy of her unconsciousness imitation. We have a range of resources in the room to support your parenting — please ask!

We want your child to experience truth, beauty, and goodness during their time at playgroup. We aim to create wonder, awe and reverence within our playgroup space.

Housekeeping

- **This is a phone-free space.** Leave your phone in the car or on silent at playgroup.
- The School Office (Reception) is located next to the Wetlands and this is where you can pay fees. Cash cannot be accepted – if you need to pay cash, please pay via a Bendigo Bank branch.
- Nappy changes — use the mats in the Kinder toilet and please take nappies home.
- Adult toilets - located in the Breezeway outside the Kinder room
- There is no such thing as a silly question, if you want to ask something, just do it!

Beyond Playgroup at FWCSS

- Three-year-old kindergarten (2 days a week) for children turning 4 years old during the year
- Four-year-old Kindergarten (3 days a week) for children turning 5 years old
- Prep for children turning 6 years old

Enrolment Packs available at reception. We take kindergarten tours monthly, please book via the school website.

Contact

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Freshwater Creek 3217

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Resources

Websites:

Steiner Education Australia

<https://www.steinereducation.edu.au/>

Australian Association for Rudolf Steiner Early Childhood Education

<https://www.steinerearlychildhood.com/>

The Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar

<https://www.steinerseminar.net.au/>

Melbourne Therapy Centre

<https://melbournetherapy.org.au/>

The Gabriel Centre

<http://www.gabrielcentre.com.au/>

Waldorf 100 - Learn to Change the World

<https://www.waldorf-100.org/en/>

Heart Spaces

<https://www.heartspaces.com.au/>

Waldorf Today

<https://www.waldorftoday.com/>

Lifeways

<http://lifewaysnorthamerica.org/>

Craft and Toys:

Winterwood Toys

<https://www.winterwoodtoys.com.au/>

Morning Star Colours

<https://www.morningstarcolours.au/>

Morning Star Children

<https://www.morningstarchildren.com.au/>

Dragonfly Toys

<https://www.dragonflytoys.com.au/>

Mercurius Australia

<https://www.mercurius-australia.com/>

Honeybee Toys

<https://www.honeybeetoys.com.au/>

Great Western Wooden Toys

174 Marshalltown Rd, Grovedale VIC 3216 Phone: (03) 5244 1868



Our songs

Wash hands wash

The farmer's gone to plough
When your hands are nice and clean
Dry hands now

Ring a ring of Roses

A pocket full of posies
A tissue, a tissue
We all fall down

The fish are in the water
The fish are in the sea
We all jump up with a 1, 2, 3

The cows are in the meadow
Eating butter cups
A tissue, a tissue we all jump up!

It's time to tell a story, it's time to tell a tale

Little Candle burning bright,
Give to us your golden light

Earth who gives to us this food

Sun who makes it ripe and good
Dear earth, dear sun by you we live
Our loving thanks to you we give

For the Golden corn and the Apples on the trees

For the golden fruit and the honey from the bees
For fruits and nuts and berries, we find along the way
We praise and give lots of thanks, everyday

Down is the Earth, up is the Sky

here are my friends and here am I
two eyes to see, two ears to hear
two feet to walk and run, here are
My hands, give yours to me
Good morning everyone

Sally goes round the sun,

Sally goes round the moon
Sally goes round the chimney tops
On a Saturday afternoon

We've had a lovely play today

Let's tidy up
We've had a lovely day today
Let's tidy up.

I met a little dusty gnome

Who said it's time to clean our room
Round, round, round, swish, swish, swish
Clean our room.

Dear Candle, Dear Candle

Please share your light
Dear candle, dear candle
Make us all bright

Blessings on the blossoms

Blessings on the fruit
Blessings on the leaves and stems
Blessings on the root

Birds in the Air

Stones on the ground
Fish in the water
We're in God's hands

The Earth is firm beneath my feet

The sun shines bright above
And here I am so straight and tall
All things to know and love

Heavens above and Earth below, Angels flying to and fro

And on the earth so firmly I stand, I raise my hand and say "goodbye friends"
Until we meet again

NOTES

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