

KINDERGARTEN ATTENDANCE POLICY

EVERY DAY COUNTS....

Getting Ready for Kindergarten at Mandurah Primary School

Here are some more simple things you can do to help your child (and the rest of the family!) get ready to start Kindergarten:



- Read stories with your child about starting school.
- Go past the school and talk to your child about how they will soon be going there, the exciting things they will do and the friends they will make.
- Go along to the Kindergarten orientation at your school with your child.
- Go shopping together to buy a special lunch box and drink bottle, and things they will need such as a school bag, uniform items and art smock. You will get a list of items from the school.
- Label all your child's belongings with their name.
- Introduce yourself to other parents and become part of the school community.
- Organise play dates to help your child socialise with the other children in their class.
- Have a routine each morning as you and your child get ready to go to school.
- Iron clothes and prepare lunches and refrigerate the night before. This will make your morning routine easier.
- Make life easier for you and your child by buying clothing with large buttons or Velcro that will allow them to dress themselves. Being able to get themselves ready will also be a confidence boost for your child.
- Once school starts, ensure your child gets enough rest. You will probably find that your child is tired. This is normal as they adjust to their busy days at Kindergarten learning and playing.
- Get your child nutritious meals and snacks to keep them energised through the day.
- Talk with your child about their day when they get home. Your enthusiasm is important for them to see and feel, and will show them that school is important.
- Get to know your child's teacher and don't hesitate to talk to them about any issues you may have experienced, and give them feedback – both positive and negative.

Helping your child have a positive first experience of school is important because it can help shape the way they think about school in the future.

Once school starts, be actively involved yourself. Children love it when their mum or dad comes along to help with reading and other activities.

Your ongoing support will help them build strong foundations for success at school.

KINDERGARTEN ATTENDANCE POLICY : EVERY DAY COUNTS....

Getting Ready for Kindergarten at Mandurah Primary School *Information for Parents and Carers*

When can my child start Kindergarten?

Children can start kindergarten when turning four years old by 30 June of the year they attend.

Starting Kindergarten is the beginning of your child's education journey where they learn important early numeracy, literacy and social skills. Although Kindergarten is not compulsory, most children attend because parents understand that it helps give their children the best start to school. Kindergarten is part-time and your child will attend for 15 hours a week.

What will my child learn in Kindergarten?

Kindergarten is a wonderland of painting and story time; of talking and listening; of exploring the world; and of making new friends. Your child begins to build on what they have learned at home. This includes their understanding of language – that language is made up of words, that written words are made up of letters in the alphabet and that spoken sounds can be written down. They also learn about numbers and shapes and the many different ways we use math in our lives every day.

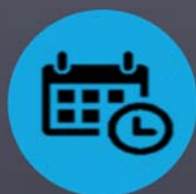
These early lessons help your child later with reading, spelling, language and math skills. Your child's teacher takes into account the many different experiences and background of the children in the classroom to make sure the learning program helps each child. Children learn social skills by playing with other children and sharing equipment. Play allows your child to share and take turns while developing coordination and confidence.

What can I do to support my child before they start kindergarten?

Starting school can be an exciting but stressful time for you and your child. For some children it may be the first time that they have been away from their parents. They may be going into a strange environment with unfamiliar people and things around them. These are some simple steps you can take to help make your child's time at school more enjoyable and relaxed. Encourage your child to be independent by helping them get used to:

- putting on and doing up his or her shoes
- caring for and putting away play things
- using a handkerchief or tissue
- going to the toilet independently
- carrying his/her own bag
- eating and drinking without help
- identifying his/her own belongings

Work with your child to help his/her communication skills. Help your child to make his/her own needs known, use appropriate language and respond verbally when spoken to.



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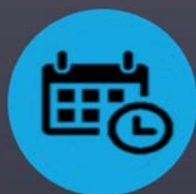
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70 %



KINDERGARTEN ATTENDANCE POLICY : EVERY DAY COUNTS....

Attendance everyday really does count...
Attending Kindergarten at Mandurah Primary School

Why is it important for my child to attend every day in kindergarten?

Research indicates that early engagement of families with their child's education, and establishing patterns of regular attendance from the outset, significantly increases a child's educational outcomes.

Regular attendance is a learned behaviour. Children learn from an early age that punctuality and 'showing up' are expectations that people have of us in various social circumstances. When children engage in activities outside of school - such as sport, employment or even going to the movies - arriving on time is regarded as essential.

Do I have to enrol my child in Kindergarten?

It is very important that parents help children to develop a good attendance career from the very beginning by ensuring that they attend Kindergarten or school whenever possible.

Current research points to a strong link between regular and consistent attendance patterns established in the early years of schooling and those patterns continuing throughout a student's career. Whilst it is not compulsory to enrol, once enrolled it is expected that your child attends every day.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

- *Every day counts... because children achieve better when they go to school all day, every day*
- *Every day counts... because going to school means getting a better chance at life*
- *Every day counts... because school helps children make friends and be happier*
- *Every day counts... because the law says children must go to school*

