



HILLSIDE  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



EARLY LEARNING CENTRE  
FOUR YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN

INFORMATION BOOKLET 2017



# FOUR YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN

The aim of the Early Learning programme is to provide quality educational experiences built on the developmental learning needs of the children. These areas of development include linguistic, social, emotional, spiritual, creative, physical and cognitive growth. The curriculum is purposeful and appropriate to the child's current thinking, interests and ways of learning. It will encourage children to be independent, active problem solvers, and engaged in the learning process.

Practices in the HillSide Christian College Early Learning Centre are based upon the following principles of learning:

- Children learn in different ways, which may range from dependent to independent, impulsive to reflective, cautious to adventurous, individual to group. Children need to “feel”, “think” and “do” as well as “reflect”.
- Children are created with different gifts and abilities. Encouraging them to identify and use their gifts will help them to develop confidence in new situations.
- Children need to experience success. Success will be more likely if children can participate at their own level of ability in challenging learning situations.
- Children respond to encouragement and recognition from peers and adults. They understand their learning processes and experience satisfaction when they evaluate their achievements.
- Language is important to learning. By thinking and talking, children make sense of their experiences and incorporate new ideas with existing knowledge.
- Motivation affects learning. Children are more likely to learn and remember when they are interested and the experience is relevant.
- Children need to explore materials and a variety of media to discover properties and relationships through trial and error.
- Children learn through their senses and develop concepts through many multisensory experiences.
- Cooperation assists children to learn from each other. When cooperative interactions are encouraged, children refine their language and thinking and develop positive relationships.
- Learning is influenced by the quality of the interactive role of the adult.

- Children need to feel safe in their schooling environment and have clear routines and consistent expectations.

The Early Learning programme provides children with experiences that enhance and develop their personal and interpersonal skills, spiritual attitudes and values across all learning areas. Much of the children's learning is achieved through activities based on structured play.

Below are some of the elements of the programme and their benefit to learning.

## Indoors

Blocks are interesting and challenging objects and children use them to experiment, make discoveries, find solutions, represent, and create.

Manipulative materials allow children to make their own discoveries and challenge them to use their initiative and imagination. Such materials include puzzles, threading materials, sorting, matching and classification materials.

Painting is a creative means of expression through which children can represent their impressions of events, objects or their emotions. Children delight in making discoveries about new colours, textures, patterns and designs.

Music in the early years allows for active involvement through singing, playing with musical instruments, moving, listening and creating.

Dramatic role play allows for spontaneous, self-initiated make-believe play for children which provides them with the opportunity to use new concepts and language to interact with others.

Spiritual development is encouraged daily through Bible stories, singing, discussion and prayer times.

## Outdoor Play

The outdoor area is an essential part of the learning environment for children. Freedom to explore and discover their capacities outdoors enables children to solve problems and develop self-awareness and self-confidence. This is enhanced by allowing students to investigate and make discoveries within our Nature Play Ground.

As children gain control over their movement and balance, they test their skills in a variety of situations. Providing for physical activity demands planning a challenging, non-competitive environment in which the children can learn.

## Morning Tea & Lunch

Children are requested to bring fruit, vegetables or cheese to share for morning tea. Suggestions include: kiwi fruit, cheese, rock melon, watermelon, stone fruit in season, dried fruits, apple, orange, banana, carrot, mandarin, cucumber, and tomatoes. A variety is always more interesting.

You will also need to provide your child with a healthy lunch.

Children will need to also bring a labelled water bottle to school. Only water should be in the bottle. This is very important, especially during the summer months.

## Clothing & Personal Presentation

Children are not required to wear school uniform. They should bring a set of spare clothes. Clothing must be appropriate for climbing and messy activities. All children's items must be clearly labelled. If your child needs to borrow clothes for any reason, the items need to be washed and returned as soon as possible.

Although Kindergarten is a non-compulsory year, parents are advised that children should attend Kindergarten dressed in appropriate clothing (suitable for a busy day inside and out), have hair that is cut in a neat and tidy way (according to school policy) and, for girls, that is tied back as required. In specific regard to hair the following styles are not suitable for Kindergarten:

- (a) Boys with long hair and/or tails;
- (b) Children with lines, shapes and zig zags cut into the hair;
- (c) Hair colouring (unless there is a school event for which it is suitable).

Other points are:

- (a) Boys are not permitted to wear piercings at all;
- (b) Children are not to have nail polish (fingers or toes);
- (c) Children are not to wear makeup.

If you are not sure about the expectations of Kindergarten, please speak to your child's teacher before you make any changes to the appearance of your child.

A hat is required and we apply sunscreen on the children's faces before they play outside.

## Nature Play Ground and Footwear

When playing in our nature play ground, it is necessary for the children to wear gumboots to protect their feet. Please bring a labelled pair of gumboots to school. Children are permitted to take their shoes off during the day for some activities, will remove them for rest time and when they are changing out of their gumboots. Please ensure that you send your child to school with shoes that they can easily remove and put back on themselves. Shoes with shoelaces are not advised until your child is competent in tying their shoes independently, and we suggest that velcro shoes are more suitable for Kindergarten. Dress up shoes (high heels) and thongs are not appropriate for school.

## Rest Time

Children will rest for half an hour after lunch. They will need to bring a clearly labelled pillow case (no pillow needed, just the pillow case) to school for this. The pillow case will stay at school for the term and go home for a wash during the holidays and must be clearly labelled.

## Health Nurse

The Kalamunda School Health Service provides a regular service to our school. All Kindergarten children will have a screen test. A consent form will be sent home, please fill it in and return promptly. Please make sure you sign all correspondence.

## Parent Involvement

We warmly welcome all parents to participate in our daily programme in the morning. This is not only a great help to staff, but it is also an invaluable time to share in your child's world. Parents are generally encouraged to become involved by undertaking tasks that may include preparing and collecting collage materials, sewing, sharing vocational expertise and participating in the programme. Parents can provide us with valuable support by placing their name on the roster.

## Communication

The Early Learning Centre staff members are committed to nurturing strong relationships

with families and the community. Parents can provide us with valuable information about their child's needs, interests and skills. It is important that we work together to establish positive relationships that enable specific learning and developmental goals as this will ensure consistency of approach and similar strategies between home and the Early Learning Centre. You are welcome to make an appointment throughout the year to discuss any aspect of your child's progress.

It is essential that we have your current address, telephone, mobile numbers, and an emergency contact person. We also need to be informed of any changes to going home arrangements (this includes children attending After School Care), medical information or family circumstances which may affect your child.

## Communication Book

There is a communication book which is clearly labelled and located on a table near the door. Please use this to inform us if other people are dropping off, or picking up your children. Please also verbally tell us. Otherwise we will only let your child go home with you (their parents).

## Absence

If you know that your child is going to be absent, or if your child has been absent, please bring a short note, email [absent@hillside.wa.edu.au](mailto:absent@hillside.wa.edu.au) or complete the form on the Skoolbag app. If your child is going away on holiday or has a protracted illness, please let us know and we will pray for you and support you in any other way we can.

## Incursions

Throughout the year we will have incursions (visitors to the Centre). These enhance the children's learning experiences by providing first-hand opportunities for children to broaden their general knowledge and understanding of immediate environments, the local neighbourhood, and the wider community. These are an important part of our programme. There is usually no cost associated with incursions as these are paid in school levies.

## Toys and Valuables

Toys or valuables should not be brought to school unless requested to do so by the teacher

or if they are for NEWS. Treasured toys or belongings such as radios, iPods and jewellery should not be brought because considerable emotional upset can occur if these items are damaged or stolen. The school does not accept responsibility for these items.

## General Information

Portfolios will be brought home by the children at the end of each semester, so that you are able to take pleasure in celebrating your child's work.

Birthdays – we love to celebrate birthdays so please feel free to bring in cup cakes, or something small to share (no balloons or lolly bags thank you). We ask that if you give out invitations that you do it discretely with parents so that staff are not involved and children don't feel missed out. Also, please check with the teacher in regard to birthday food because the school encourages healthy eating.

It is expected that your child be fully toilet trained. If children are unwell, they should be kept home as contagious diseases spread quickly through a close group of children.

## Bringing & Collecting Children

Children are to be brought to and collected from their class by an adult.

Children are **not** to be left at their class until the classroom is open and staff are in attendance. (8.50a.m.). There is a Before and After School service available for parents who need this facility. Please contact Camp Australia directly at [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au).

Arrival and departure must be acknowledged by a staff member. If anyone other than the usual parent is collecting your child, you need to notify the class teacher verbally and in the communication book because we will not release your child into the care of anyone whom we do not know. If your child is late to school, or you are picking them up early, you must go to the school office to get a late slip/sign out slip prior to going to the classroom.

## 4 Year Old Kindergarten Hours

Four year old Kindergarten runs for three full days. The days available for 2017 are:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. 8.50 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

# 2017 Phasing In Programme

The phasing in programme for 4 Year Old Kindergarten will be:

**Week 1** – Wednesday and Friday only

**Week 2 onwards** – Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

## A Summary of things about HillSide Christian College that You Need to Know

Address: 336 Hawtin Road, Forrestfield, WA 6058

Telephone: (08) 9453 2644

Fax: (08) 9453 2464

Email: [admin@hillside.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@hillside.wa.edu.au)

Absentee Email: [absent@hillside.wa.edu.au](mailto:absent@hillside.wa.edu.au)

Website: [www.hillside.wa.edu.au](http://www.hillside.wa.edu.au)

School App: Skoolbag (available from iTunes and the Google play store)

Medical issues: If a student has an ongoing illness or condition, parents are responsible for informing the school. Any changes to that information are the responsibility of the parents.

If a student has a short term illness, the school must be informed and staff members are willing to administer medication that may be required. A medication form **MUST** be completed for staff to administer medication.

If a student has a condition that requires a management plan because the illness can be of a serious or chronic nature, then parents and the centre will work together to develop the plan with copies given to personnel as required.

Students are not allowed to self-administer medication. Medication will be kept in a locked store cupboard in the teacher's office. If your child may need their Epipen or inhalers at school, please ensure the teacher has them, along with their Anaphylaxis, Allergy or Asthma

Plan.

Students who are sick are checked by the teacher and a decision is then made whether to send the child home. A child with a head injury will almost certainly be sent home.

When parents and emergency contacts cannot be contacted, the Principal may take the child to a doctor or hospital.

**Photographs:** These are taken once each year. There is no obligation to purchase the photographs but children should participate in the photographs so that other families can purchase them if they wish.

**Uniforms:** There is no uniform for Kindergarten as children only come three times each week.

**Enrolment Information:** Please ensure that you update enrolment information at the office.

**Release of students:** Children are to be released only to people who have been nominated to the school by parents/carers. If your child is to be picked up by someone not nominated to the school, you must inform the teacher personally and fill out the communication book beforehand so that your child does not become distressed.

**Allergies:** Allergies are very common these days and you will be notified if there is anything specific that cannot be brought in. Please DO NOT bring nuts to school.



**Attendance:** Even though Kindergarten is not a compulsory year, children are encouraged to attend regularly to gain the full benefit from the programme. Continued non-attendance risks a child's continued enrolment. Please email the school on [absent@hillside.wa.edu.au](mailto:absent@hillside.wa.edu.au) if your child is going to be absent.

Things to bring:

Hat\*

Change of clothes\*

Gumboots\*

Piece of fruit or vegetable for every session

A nutritious lunch

Water bottle\* that contains water (please no cordial or juice)

Pillow case\* (for rest times)

\* All of your child's personal items need to be clearly labelled.

## Conclusion

This booklet is not an exhaustive document and some aspects may change from time to time. Nevertheless, it is an introduction to the HillSide schooling community and provides some information about what happens in the Kindergarten.

For further information, please read the *Parent Handbook 2017*

Please feel free to discuss any questions or issues with your child's teacher.

November, 2016

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**TO KNOWLEDGE, ADD WISDOM**  
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