





PRESCHOOL HANDBOOK

ASHCROFT PUBLIC SCHOO

At Ashcroft Public School Preschool, we believe Early Childhood Education plays a vital role in the development of a well-rounded child.

We pride ourselves on our warm, caring environment that nurtures each child's uniqueness. Our Preschool educators are dedicated to ensuring each child's individual interests and abilities are catered for in a positive early childhood setting.

Our centre is inclusive of all children and supports the development of each child through individualised learning opportunities.

Our play based curriculum is responsive to children's needs and interests, and reflects the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) to provide children with a sense of belonging, being and becoming within our centre.

Our preschool is well resourced and is reflective of the children's learning and achievements. The learning environments are constructed to challenge all children to develop their knowledge of the world around them.

We understand that children learn within the context of their family and community therefore developing strong partnerships with families is crucial to ensure connections are formed.

Our experienced team, is committed to engaging in professional learning opportunities and continuous reflection to ensure an ever evolving curriculum that links with the EYLF and lays the foundations for future learning.

Our Preschool is an integral part of Ashcroft Public School and opportunities to engage with the wider school is embedded throughout the preschool year. We are committed to the Behaviour for Success program, which supports the development domains of social and emotional wellbeing. This is enhanced through the transition to school program that ensures children and their families have a smooth progression to Kindergarten.

CONTENTS





IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Contact Information

Licensing

Management

Ratios

Hours of Operation

Groups

National Quality Standard: NQS Quality Improvement Plan: QIP

Our Educational Program

Enrolment

Immunisation

Fees

Parent Concerns and Complaints

Communication

Family Involvement

Birthdays



WELLBEING

SAFETY

Arrival and Departure Procedures

Preschool Clothing

Sun Protection

Changes to Enrolment Information

Custody and Access

Child Protection

Safety Checks

Emergency Procedures

Incursions



STAFFING

Staffing Requirements Staffing of Breaks in the Preschool Supervision of the Preschool



Positive Behaviour for Learning: PBL

HEALTH

Food and Nutrition

Canteen

Rest and Sleeping

Toileting

Handwashing

Staying Healthy and Infection Control

Supporting Health Care Needs



COMMUNITY

The Beehive

- Schools as Community Centres (SaCC)







CONTACT INFORMATION

ADDRESS: Sheriff Street, Ashcroft 2168

PHONE: 9607 8202

www.ashcroft-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/years/preschool WEBSITE:

EMAIL: ashcroft-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

LICENSING

Ashcroft Public School Preschool is licensed to care for a maximum of twenty (20) children per day. We are licensed to operate Monday to Friday during NSW Public School terms, between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm

Approved Provider: **NSW Department of Education**

Service Approval Number: SE-00006468 Meeting (2018) Assessment and Rating:

This license is subject to the conditions set out or referred to in Section 51 of the Children (Education and Care Services) National Law (NSW), which include conditions prescribed in the Education and Care Services National Regulation.

MANAGEMENT

Our preschool is operated by the NSW Department of Education. It is part of Ashcroft Public School which is a Preschool to Year Six public school. Our school principal assumes the role of:

- Nominated Supervisor
- · Educational Leader
- Responsible Person in charge

Our preschool educators are responsible for the daily care and education of the preschool children.



RATIOS

At all times the children are in attendance, the adult to child ratio in our preschool is one adult to ten children.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Our preschool operates daily during NSW Public School terms. In addition to NSW Public Holidays and NSW School Holidays, our Preschool is closed on the first day of each term and the last two days of Term 4. These closures are to enable staff to participate in professional learning and the cleaning and maintenance of the preschool and equipment.

Families will be reminded of these closures in our Preschool Newsletter and on the notice board located in the Preschool foyer.

GROUPS

Our preschool offers 2 classes with a maximum of 20 children per day. Children attend preschool either 2 or 3 days per week as outlined below. This ensures each child has access to 600 hours of preschool over the course of the year, in line with the federal government's initiative of Universal Access to a quality preschool program.



Buru

Children in the Buru group attend on the following days:

TERM 1 - Monday, Tuesday

TERM 2 - Monday, Tuesday

TERM 3 - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

TERM 4 - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday



Wirriga

Children in the Wirriga group attend on the following days:

TERM 1 - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

TERM 2 - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

TERM 3 - Thursday, Friday

TERM 4 - Thursday, Friday



NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD: NSQ

The National Quality Standard (NQS) sets a high benchmark for early childhood education across Australia. The NQS includes 7 quality areas that are important outcomes for all children. Services are assessed against these outcomes and given an overall rating based on their practices.



Self Assessment Working Document

Each year our staff and community work together to develop an action plan for continued improvement, known as a Self Assessment Working Document or the QIP (Quality Improvement plan). Our document records our self-assessment and identifies areas we are working on improving in the current year, within our preschool, as measured against the National Quality Standards above.

Our improvement goals and a copy of the full document are on display in the Preschool fover and on request.



ASHCROFT PUBLIC SCHOOL **PRESCHOOL**

OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Our preschool program provides your child with many opportunities to develop essential social skills and learn, through a play based curriculum that is responsive to children's needs and interests.

We are guided by the national early childhood curriculum framework; The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). The Framework has a strong emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language and social and emotional development and is the foundation of our program.

The Learning Outcomes within the EYLF are:

- Children have a strong sense of identity;
- Children are connected to and contribute to their world:
- Children have a strong sense of well being:
- · Children are confident and involved learners:
- Children are effective communicators.

Our program acknowledges the uniqueness of each child, whilst encouraging them to learn within a supportive and caring environment. We plan for both intentional and spontaneous learning in our indoor and outdoor environments.

In a typical day, we provide a range of activities and equipment for the children to choose to play with. These activities are planned considering the interests, needs and development of individual children. Children also participate in more structured activities, such as listening to stories and singing songs.

Our educators support the children to make decision's about the activities they want to engage in, interacting and playing with them and helping them to solve problems they encounter.

The current preschool program is always on display in the preschool room.











ENROLMENT

Children are eligible to enrol in a NSW government preschool if they turn 4 years of age on or before 31 July in that year.

To apply to enrol your child at our preschool, you can pick up an Application to enrol in a NSW Government preschool form from the school office. This form needs to be completed and returned with other required supporting documents, before the application can be accepted.

In the situation that applications exceed the number of places we have available, the principal will offer enrolment in the following order:

- 1. to children living within the school's enrolment catchment area with priority given to Aboriginal children and those who are disadvantaged
- 2. to children living outside the school's enrolment catchment area and who have siblings enrolled in the school, with priority given to Aboriginal children and those who are disadvantaged
- 3. to children living outside the local school's enrolment catchment area with priority given to Aboriginal children and those who are disadvantaged.

A waiting list will be created when applications exceed places available.

We recommend you meet the Principal and Preschool teacher and take a tour of our preschool in operation. Please make an appointment to do this by contacting our school office either in person or on 9607 8202



IMMUNISATION

Under the *NSW Public Health Act 2010*, a school cannot enrol a child in preschool unless the parent/guardian has provided an approved Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) record that shows the child:

- is fully immunised for their age, or
- has a medical reason not to be vaccinated, or
- is on a recognised catch-up schedule

Immunisation History Statements are automatically sent to you by Medicare once your child has completed their 4 year old vaccinations. You can also obtain one at any time by:

- using your Medicare online account www.my.gov.au
- using the Medicare Express Plus App on a smart device
- calling the AIR General Enquiries Line on 1800 653 809

If your child turns four after enrolling, you are asked to supply this updated record to our school office. If you fail to do this, you will be sent a reminder letter.

National Immunisation Schedule (Childhood)

Age	Diseases
Birth	Hepatitis B (usually offered in hospital)
2 months (can be given from 6 weeks of age)	 Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) Rotavirus Pneumococcal Meningococcal B—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
4 months	 Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) Rotavirus Pneumococcal Meningococcal B—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
6 months	 Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) Pneumococcal—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in WA, NT, SA and Qld
6 months to under 5 years	Influenza (annually)
12 months	Meningococcal ACWY Measles, mumps, rubella Pneumococcal Meningococcal B—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
18 months	 Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) Measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough Hepatitis A—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in WA, NT, SA and Qld
4 years	 Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio Pneumococcal—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in WA, NT, SA and Qld Hepatitis A—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in WA, NT, SA and Qld

Children with certain medical conditions are eligible for additional vaccines for free such as pneumococcal and meningococcal. Speak to your vaccination provider to see if your child requires additional vaccines. All information is correct as at March 2023.



PARENT CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

Complaints and concerns should be made initially to our Preschool teacher. If you would prefer to speak directly to the Principal you should contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

All complaints will be dealt with confidentially as per the NSW Department of Education Complaints Handling Policy 2020. Where possible less serious complaints will be resolved informally.





In our foyer, you will find lots of different information about our preschool. Parents are updated regularly about the current activities and other events happening in the school community via our notice boards and information displays.



You can keep up to date with what's happening at Preschool by regularly checking:

- School Newsletters
- Notice Board where upcoming events are displayed
- Notes and other communication sent home
- Your child's Personal Learning Portfolio
- Ashcroft Public School website Preschool pages
- Seesaw (see below)



We use the App Seesaw at Preschool to document your child's learning and development at preschool. Seesaw The Learning Journal allows learning experiences to be recorded, photographed and drawn Woord shipting.

comments and write what your child has said or done, to have a more detailed record of their preschool journey.

You will be given information and an access code at the beginning of the year.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Our preschool and your child will benefit greatly from your input, suggestions, support and assistance. We have a number of ways you can be involved in our preschool community:

- Spend some time playing with your child in the preschool;
- · Complete surveys and questionnaires to provide us with your ideas and feedback
- Attend one of our special events, such as the Easter Hat Parade, Book Week Celebrations, ANZAC Assembly, NAIDOC events, etc.
- Attend Stay & Play Once e term we invite parents to bring a plate of food to share with others and to spend some time with their child and other families at the service.

Please speak to one of our educators if you would like to be involved in the preschool.







Birthdays are an important part of every child's life. If you would like us to celebrate your child's birthday, please provide cupcakes or muffins for the group as a treat (these are easier to hand out to the children than a cake). Cakes should be commercially purchased and prepackaged.

Please discuss the upcoming event with our Preschool teacher.

If your child is gluten free, has allergies or other special dietary requirements, please speak to our educators about providing alternative treats such as muffins or cupcakes which can be frozen and stored in the preschool. We will then be able to give your child one of their own treats when the group celebrates a child's birthday.







MELLBEING HEALTH

FOOD AND NUTRITION

We regularly discuss healthy lifestyles with children through stories, games and play and encourage children to make healthy eating choices while at preschool. Please provide your child with a healthy recess, lunch and a bottle of water. We encourage children to eat their fruit, vegetables or other healthy choice options: for example banana, apple, orange, strawberries, cucumber or carrot sticks, fruit yoghurt, etc.

Lunch is at 11:00 am Afternoon tea is at 1:30pm

Extra ideas for healthy lunches can be found online at: www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au







CANTEEN

Our School Canteen is run by Brooke's Canteen and operates under the "Healthy Canteen" guidelines put in place by the Department of Education. It is open 5 days a week to enable students to order their lunch. Lunch orders must be placed at the canteen before 9.00am each morning. The Preschool SLSO will collect your child's order at lunch time.



The current canteen menu can be found on our website:

www.ashcroft-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/canteen

Pack your child a HEALTHY **LUNCH BO**

















Fruit

Vegetables













Dairy











Wholegrains













Lean meat & alternatives













A Healthy Lunch Box











lunchbox snacks



Swap snacks that are high in fat, sugar, salt and low in fibre for quick and easy healthy snacks!

HEALTHY SNACK IDEAS:



X SNACKS BEST LEFT OUT OF THE LUNCHBOX:

- ✓ Pikelets
- √ Fruit bread
- / Plain rice cakes
- √ Air-popped popcom
- √ Wholegrain crackers
- √ Reduced fat yoghurt
- √ Reduced fat cheese
- √ Vegetable sticks eg celery, carrot, capsicum
- √ Cherry tomatoes
- √ Corn cob
- √ Cucumber
- Fruit (whole or sliced) eg grapes, orange segments, kiwi fruit, mango slices, pear, apple, banana
- X Muffins and cakes
- X Sweet biscuits
- X Savoury biscuits
- X Muesli bars
- X Sweet rice bars
- x Fruit straps
- X Chocolate
- × Lollies

- Potato chips
- X Corn chips
- X Processed cheese & biscuits
- X Soft drink
- X Flavoured milk
- X Fruit drinks









REST AND SLEEPING

Our indoor and outdoor spaces have quiet areas a child can choose to go to when needed for some quiet time. We will always be guided by you, so please speak to one of our educators if you would like your child to have a sleep at preschool. Every day we spend a small amount of time relaxing - we call this relaxing time. Each child will lie down for a short period to recharge and relaxing.

If your child requires a sleep at preschool, please pack a sheet and small pillow in their bag for them to use.

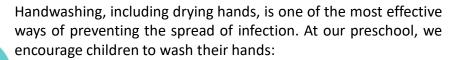


TOILETING

Preschool can be an exciting, busy place which means at some stage, most pre-schoolers will have a toileting accident at preschool. If this occurs, one of our educators will change your child into their spare set of clothes and put the soiled clothes in a plastic bag out of reach for you to collect when you pick up your child in the afternoon.

Upon enrolment, we will discuss any particular toileting needs your child may have so we can support both you and your child.

HANDWASHING



- on arrival at preschool
- · after going to the toilet
- after wiping their nose
- before and after eating
- · after patting or touching animals
- after applying sunscreen
- after outside play



STAYING HEALTHY & INFECTION CONTROL

The well-being of all children and staff is essential. Families are asked to help us protect everyone involved with our preschool, by keeping any child who is unwell at home until they have fully recovered. This is particularly important with contagious and infectious illnesses and symptoms.

The teacher will inform all parents and carers in writing, if there is a confirmed case of an infectious illness or head lice in the preschool. If your child develops an infectious illness, such as measles or chicken pox, please let us know so we can inform other parents that exposure may have occurred. Please refer to the poster in the preschool foyer for the recommended exclusion periods as stated by NSW Health, which we must follow.

If your child appears unwell at preschool, we will closely monitor them. If they do not improve or we have concerns about your child's health, we will contact you immediately. If your child has a temperature, vomits or has diarrhea, we will contact you to collect them as soon as possible, to minimise the risk of infection.

When a child is sick, the best place for them is to be at home where they rest and be monitored closely throughout the day. If your child is going to be absent due to illness, please contact the school office on 9607 8202

You can visit the websites below for more information regarding infectious illnesses:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Factsheets/infectious childhood.PDF

www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/too-sick-to-go-to-school





SUPPORTING HEALTH CARE NEEDS

If your child has a medical condition, please record this in the relevant sections on the enrolment form. Before your child's first day at preschool, our teacher will discuss your child's individual plan with you. Children with severe asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes or other medical conditions which require support must have an Individual Health Care Plan, based on information provided by Doctors and parents, before they can start. This is to ensure that we can take the necessary actions to support your child at preschool.

ASTHMA

- Parents need to provide prescribed medication (puffer) and spacer for use when needed.
- · Asthma medication will be administered by school staff in accordance with your child's Individual Asthma Plan.

ASTHMA ACTION PLAN

ANAPHYLAXIS

- Parents need to provide an EpiPen to be left at school for use when needed.
- Treatment will be administered by school staff in accordance with your child's Individual Anaphylaxis Plan.
- All staff are trained in the identification and management of anaphylaxis and the correct way to administer an EpiPen.



OTHER PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS

We prefer that parents give their child any prescribed medicine before or after preschool hours. If however, you require our educators to administer medication to your child during the preschool day, please speak to one of our educators. You will be asked to record the details of the medication, dosage and method of administration and give your written consent.

We are not permitted to give children any non prescribed medications such as Panadol, Nurofen or cough medicine under any circumstances.



MELLBEING SAFFTY



ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

Ashcroft Public School Preschool is only licensed to have children on the premises between 9:00am and 3:00pm. It is important that you arrive at or after 9:00am and collect your child by 3:00pm each day they are enrolled.

According to mandatory legal requirements, only adults (over 18 years) are able to drop off and collect children. It is also not acceptable to leave your child alone in either the main school or preschool playgrounds.

Gates will be CLOSED at 9:10am and OPENED at 2:45pm. Please use the main school entrance on Sheriff Street during all other times.

ARRIVING AT PRESCHOOL AFTER 9:10AM

As soon as you enter our Preschool at or after 9:00am, it is very important that you sign and record the time next to your child's name, in the Arrival and Departure Register which is located in the foyer. Once signed in, bring your child into the Preschool play area where you will be greeted by one of our-educators.

If you have a different contact number for the day, or someone different is collecting your child, please notify our educators on arrival. On enrolment, you will be asked to provide written details of all 'authorised' adults who you give permission to drop off and collect your child. Only their parent or one of these authorised collectors can take your child from preschool.

Each child is allocated their own locker. On arrival, help your child put their bag into their locker and take them to the bathroom to wash their hands. If we are starting the day outside, make sure your child has their hat on and assist them to apply sunscreen located in the classroom.

EPARTING PRESCHOOL BY 3:00PM

When collecting your child, you must again sign and record the time in the Arrival and Departure Register. All children must be collected by 3:00pm as stated in our license. If you have children who attend the main school, please pick up your child from Preschool **before** you collect your other child/ren.

If you unexpectedly require someone not on your list of authorised adults to collect your child, please call the school before 3:00pm to inform us - 9607 8202. The person's name will be recorded in the Arrival and Departure Register and the person will be required to show photo ID (e.g. driver's licence) when collecting your child. Please note we will not allow your child to leave the premises without confirming the person's identity.



PRESCHOOL CLOTHING

Preschool is MESSY!! We use paint, make mud, play with water, build with wet sand and dig in the garden. Please dress your child in comfortable clothing that doesn't matter if it gets dirty. We do provide aprons for painting and other messy play, however they can still get their clothes dirty.

In addition, your child needs to wear clothing which protects their shoulders as stated in our Sun Safe policy. This means no singlet tops or dresses without sleeves. We discourage long skirts, dresses and thongs.

For safety, children are required to wear joggers or sneakers to preschool because they are great for climbing, running and playing. Where possible, velcro fastening shoes are preferred over shoes with laces as they are easier for your child to put on and take off independently.

SUN PROTECTION

We schedule our outdoor play times to avoid the higher UV rates, but all the children still need to wear a hat whilst outside. Children must bring their own sun safety hat to school to wear outdoors each day to help protect them against the risk of sunburn. Our Sun Safe policy requires children (and staff) wear hats while outdoors, all year.

In line with the Cancer Council recommendations, we recommend (and sell) broad brimmed bucket style hats with a 7cm brim, as these offer the best protection from the sun. We have sunscreen available in our classroom for the children to use. Please either apply sunscreen to your child or assist them to apply it themselves.

We have Ashcroft Public School Preschool t-shirts, jumpers and hats which you are able to purchase from the Preschool.





CHANGES TO ENROLMENT INFORMATION

The NSW Public School Preschool Enrolment Form and Ashcroft Public School Preschool Student Information Card are completed upon enrolment. These documents contains information which is essential for us to manage your child's learning and wellbeing whilst they are at Preschool.

It is important that you tell Preschool staff as soon as possible if you change any of the following:

- your personal phone number/s
- emergency contact people including their address and/or phone numbers
- authorised people who can collect your child from the service
- medical conditions
- court orders which affect your child



CUSTODY AND ACCESS

The Family Law Act of June 1996 states we are not allowed to refuse access to a child's natural parent(s) as stated on their enrolment form unless we have written proof of a Custody Order or Apprehended Violence Order advising us otherwise. Please speak to the Preschool teacher or Principal if you have any concerns in this area.

CHILD PROTECTION

All staff employed in schools are mandatory reporters. This means we are legally obliged to report any suspected child abuse. Reports are directed to the Principal who will notify the Department's Child Wellbeing Unit.

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare you can also call the Child Protection Hotline on 132111.

More information is available online at www.community.nsw.gov.au/home



SAFETY CHECKS



Preschool staff do daily indoor and outdoor safety checks for hazards before children arrive each day.

If you notice anything which you are concerned about, please let one of the staff know immediately.

Health and safety issues are reported directly to the Ashcroft Public School Health and Safety Committee.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Twice a term, children and staff undergo Emergency Evacuation Training Drill Procedures. All classrooms within the school and preschool have detailed Emergency Evacuation procedures are located at entry and exit points.

In the event of an actual emergency, these procedures will be implemented and preschool staff will accompany the preschool children to the designated evacuation meeting point, outlined in the Ashcroft Public School Emergency Procedures.

If necessary, staff and children will evacuate to Ed Wheeler Oval located at the corner of Maxwells Avenue and Cartwright Avenue, Sadlier. Parents will be called if it is necessary for children to be collected.

INCURSIONS

Incursions are a valuable learning experience. They also help to connect children to their local community and help them understand the world around them.

You will be notified of the details of any upcoming incursions. In order for your child to participate, you will need to complete a permission slip. Some incursions may require a small payment.

If an incursion falls on a day your child doe not attend, they are welcome to participate however you must stay with them at preschool and are responsible for them for the duration of the incursion as per our licencing requirements. At the conclusion of the event, you must take your child home.









STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

Ashcroft Public School Preschool is staffed by two educators when children are in attendance who hold the following qualifications:

- 1 x Qualified Teacher Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood
- 1 x Preschool School Learning and Support Officer (SLSO) Certificate 3 Children's Services

STAFFING OF BREAKS IN THE PRESCHOOL

When the teacher takes their lunch break, or is relieved to complete administration duties or Professional Learning, they are replaced by another Ashcroft Public School teacher. When the Preschool SLSO takes their scheduled breaks, they are replaced by another Ashcroft Public School SLSO.

The Preschool termly staff roster is displayed in the foyer, as well as the names of the two educators on duty for the current day.

SUPERVISION OF THE PRESCHOOL

Our Preschool teacher and Preschool SLSO are supervised by one of the Deputy Principals at Ashcroft Public School. They also report directly to the Principal.









THE BEEHIVE

SCHOOLS as COMMUNITY CENTRES - SaCC

The Schools as Community Centre (SaCC) Program at Ashcroft Public School commenced in December 2002. The Program is funded by Families NSW which is a State Government partnership between the Department of Education and the Department of Health. SaCCs operate like a Community Centre to support families raising children from birth to eight years in partnership with local human service agencies, the local community and the school.

Over the years, we have aimed to provide a safe and friendly environment for children and families to play, interact and share positive experiences. Examples of programs held at the Beehive include supported playgroups, support to transition into our preschool, family excursions and parenting workshops. All preschool children and families are invited to access the services offered at the Beehive.

We currently have the following Supported Playgroups running at the Beehive:



Park and Play is a free Supported Playgroup run by Anglicare Liverpool which runs every Tuesday morning from 9.30am-11.30am.

Supported Playgroups (Fairfield Council) is a free Supported Playgroup which runs every Wednesday morning from 9.15am to 11.15am

The Beehive is open Monday to Thursday each week during NSW Public School terms. Please contact Andrea Giunta (SaCC Facilitator) on 8783 0951 if you require any further information.

supporting families to raise children

