

Ascot Park Kindergarten



Our team:
Diane Lawrence
Kura Robin,
Wendy Allen
Ann Bonouvrier

Information for parents about Ascot Park Kindergarten

Welcome to Ascot Park Kindergarten. We've put some information together to provide a snapshot of our programme, day and opportunities for whānau involvement so that you know what to expect and how you can be involved in your child's learning.

1. What is unique about our programme?

Our programme encourages families to be part of our programme in what ever way they feel they can.

We have opportunities for family groupings, so siblings and cousins can attend together. We encourage the participation of children and their families with special learning needs, and will work alongside other agencies to support and encourage full participation.

2. What is a 'portfolio'? (prepared for each child while at kindergarten)

This is a collection of photos and stories that record your child's learning and discovery while at Kindergarten. We encourage you to contribute by adding your comments on the sheets in the front of the book.

You are welcome at any time to take these books home to share with other family members.

3. What food do parents need to provide?

We ask for each family to contribute a couple of pieces of fruit per week, bread or plain crackers (because of allergies and religious believes) to share as part of our morning tea routine. As well as this, baking does happen within session to be part of that kai time.

At lunchtime we ask that you provide a packed lunch for your child. Because of allergies we ask that you don't include egg sandwiches, or any nut bars in their lunches.

A drink bottle to fill with water from our cooler is recommended, and cups are also provided.

Our Kindergarten encourages healthy eating as part of our ongoing Healthy Heart award, so please remember to consider healthy food options for your children.

Please feel free to join us for Kai time.

4. What is our routine around food?

We have a shared morning tea, which is put out throughout the morning for the children to have when they feel hungry. Children are expected to wash their hands and staff are there to remind them of this.

Lunch time is around 12pm but we do show flexibility around this. We do share a group time before this where we have singing and stories.

Karakia is sung before we eat.

All are welcome to

5. How do we start the session/day at the kindergarten?

We provide a programme where the children are able to select where they want to work during the day.

6. How are parents involved in our kindergarten?

We encourage parents to support our kindergarten in whatever way they feel they can. There is always a hot drink, and a welcoming face, or chance to catch up with a friend or two.

We have great support with lawn mowing and washing of children's dressup and day to day laundry.

Many support us by, spending time with their children, supporting fundraisers, baking with the children, weaving, sewing, singing, sharing waiata and playing instruments, and sharing other resources.

7. What other tasks can parents do to help at kindergarten?

Please feel free to ask staff if you have any other ideas we would welcome these.

8. Does our kindergarten have a committee/whānau group?

We have a "Friends of Ascot Park" which come together to support us with fundraising ideas and applying for grants, to enhance the equipment provided for our children.

All are welcome

9. Does our kindergarten provide a sunhat and sunscreen and what are our routines around sun safety?

All children are asked to bring a sun hat, and children are encouraged to wear these during terms one and four, our summer months. Adults are also expected to model good sun sense by also wearing hats.

Sunscreen is provided at Kindergarten, but we suggest families to apply sunscreen at home and put a bottle in their child's bag for re applying if applicable.

Please advise if your child is allergic to sunscreen.

10. What are our toilet routines?

Please let us know if your child is in nappies or needs help with toileting as we are happy to support in any way we can.

Please bring changes of clothes and nappies and wipes as needed. Nappy changes are recorded for your information.

11. What community partnerships does our kindergarten have?

We have formed many community partnerships including, Local schools for Transition visits and Colleges to support Gateway programme, Group Special Education, Pippins, Van Asch Deaf Education, Plunket before School checks, Hearing and Vision Tester, training providers and their students, and various maintenance support people

Please bring the following named items to kindergarten each day:

- A back pack with a change of clothes and additional items like a jacket that are relevant to the season.
- Food in a lunch box and drink (unless your kindergarten provides).

Please make sure your child is dressed in **appropriate play clothing**. Some of our activities encourage or involve messy play.

Helping your child settle in to kindergarten

There are several things you can do to help your child prepare for kindergarten. Usually there will be a period of several weeks from when you get notified of a place at kindergarten and when your child starts. During this time, we suggest you:

1. Visit kindergarten and spend time familiarizing your child with the environment, teachers and children.
2. Point out the kindergarten when you drive past and talk to your child about what activities they might do and which friends are there.
3. Talk about the teachers by name.

Prior to, or on your child's first day, talk to the teachers and work out a settling plan. Each child is different so they will need differing levels of support or time to settle independently into a new environment. We welcome you to stay and spend as much time as you would like with us. (Note - you will find more useful information on our Association website – www.wn-kindergarten.org.nz)

Attending kindergarten

It is really important that your child attends kindergarten for the hours agreed within your enrolment agreement. Not only do teachers plan their programmes around the children attending each session but ECE funding is provided on the basis of a child's regular and timely attendance at kindergarten. Parents, whānau or caregivers need to sign your child in and out each day. Kindergartens must provide this information as part of the ECE funding process. It also provides key safety information in the event of an emergency (as to who is in attendance at kindergarten). Please talk to your teaching team if you have unavoidable reasons for your child not regularly attending kindergarten.

Managing sickness

Please have a plan in place in case your child becomes ill and needs to be collected from kindergarten. If not yourselves, please nominate an alternative person who can collect your child as soon as possible after being notified. There are times we may ask for children to stay away from kindergarten for a period of time after their symptoms have cleared (for example gastro illnesses).

Fundraising

Our kindergartens thrive with the support of parents, whānau and committees. Initiatives or events organised by committees provide funds which go toward making each kindergarten a rich and engaging learning environment. Whether your involvement is at a committee level, actively assisting committee initiatives or attending events, your participation is central to making fundraising efforts a success for your kindergarten.

Policies and Procedures

To operate in New Zealand, every Early Childhood Education service must meet strict Ministry of Education regulations. Each of our kindergartens has a Policy and Procedure booklet which relates to the attendance and welfare of your child. You are welcome to view these at any time.

Excursions

From time to time the children will be taken on short walks near and around the kindergarten. Parents are asked for permission for short walks during enrolment. As part of the learning programme, children may be taken on longer excursions; your permission will be sought on each occasion. Parents and caregivers are welcome to join us. Please read the kindergarten's excursion policy for more information.

Enjoy your time at Kindergarten

We hope you will find your time at kindergarten a 'family affair' and feel welcome to spend time with your child, as an individual, with younger siblings or extended family members. A key aspect of our learning programme is the ongoing collaboration and connection with whānau so it's important to us to foster strong relationships with you.