



Mitchell Street
Early Learning Centre

KINDERGARTEN

Learning the skills for school and life...



Your Kind of Kindergarten

Like you, we want your child to have the best possible start in life. That's why at Mitchell Street we've developed a high quality kindergarten program that is recognised by both the Federal and Victorian State Governments.

Mitchell Street Kindergarten is based in a trusted early learning centre-based environment, which means your child can progress to kindergarten in familiar surroundings where they already feel comfortable and happy. It also means you can still enjoy the benefits of the long day care program, without the inconvenience of shuffling between two separate locations. The program runs from 10am-3pm Monday to Friday (with the flexibility of the service being open 6.30am-6.30pm, which is designed and works really well for our busy working parents) and each child must attend at least 3 days per week. Comprising of 38 children on a daily basis, the group is split into two for more hands-on and engaging experiences to occur. We are lucky enough to have an upstairs learning environment, which is part of our kindergarten program. Each day, a group of children are taken upstairs by one of the kindergarten teachers for a couple of hours. This creates opportunities for children to work in smaller groups, and allows educators to provide rich and meaningful experiences.



Our Mitchell Street Teachers



Hi my name is Brooke Chamberlain. I have a Bachelor of Primary Teaching and a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education. I am a passionate, caring and aspiring professional who takes pride in my work and ability to know each child and their families. I aim to make a difference in each child's life and have a strong desire to see children in my program reach their full potential. I believe children learn best in a supportive atmosphere, where they feel comfortable and valued. Using current initiatives in student learning, I provide motivating, hands-on and engaging educational

experiences, which accommodate for the diversity of students' learning needs and abilities. I have been working at Mitchell Street for over 2 years and thoroughly enjoy it. The children, families and other colleagues are what makes my job so special to me.



Hello, my name is Brooke Howard. I have a Bachelor of Primary and Early Childhood Education. I feel blessed to be given this opportunity to work at Mitchell Street, and it is here that has helped shape my philosophy and beliefs. I believe within our learning environment, positive relationships with our children are fundamental, as children should feel safe, secure and supported within their environment. I believe that by having a deep understanding of children's social, emotional, cognitive, language, cultural, fine-motor and gross-motor development, I am

able to use this to contribute to the development of our program. This job has allowed me to constantly develop collaborative and trusting relationships with children, their families and colleagues.

An outline of the daily routine and a termly plan can be found below (please note: it is flexible and can be subject to change).

Daily Routine of the 4 Year Old Kindergarten

Up until 10am – Free time for children (progressive morning tea in this time).

10.00am – Program starts. Morning group time (includes 'Welcome to Country', daily chart and focus board). Children are split into 2 groups; (1 group downstairs, 1 group upstairs).

Intentional teaching occurs eg – group reading, science experiments, cooking experiences, etc)

11.15am – Free play

11.45am – Pack-up routines take place

12.00pm – All children come downstairs and the groups change rooms.

Lunchtime starts: self-serving and cleaning their own dishes is highly encouraged.

12.30pm – Free play

1.30pm – Intentional teaching begins eg – small group tasks, Ipad use, number/letter recognition, etc.

2.30pm – All children come together to share afternoon tea.

3.00pm – Program finishes. Children choose either indoor or outdoor play until parents arrive for pick-up.



Termly Plan of the 4 Year Old Kindergarten

Term Plan					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1 All about me	All about me booklet	All about me booklet	All about me booklet	All about me booklet	All about me booklet
WEEK 2 Measuring	How tall am I? Measuring our bodies	Making a height chart	Which bag is heavier?	Scavenger hunt finding objects.	Which animal is smaller?
WEEK 3 Human Body	The 5 senses of the body	How the body works- Parts of the internal system.	How food is digested.	The 5 senses of the body	The skeletal system
WEEK 4 Healthy Eating	The difference between healthy/unhealthy foods	Healthy eating lunch activity sheet	Healthy eating lunch activity sheet	Healthy eating lunch activity sheet	Hands on healthy eating-making salad sandwiches for lunch.
WEEK 5 Science Week	Living Eggs Arrive	The life cycle of a chicken.	Understanding floating & sinking.	Layered Liquids.	The effects of bi-carb soda on different liquids.
WEEK 6 Book Week	Books from around the world.	Create your own magical story.	Making Bookmarks.	Making Bookmarks.	The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Create your own caterpillar.
WEEK 7 Keeping Safe Week/ Father's Day	Librarian visit	Bravehearts Incursion	Father's Day Craft	Father's Day Craft	Father's Day Craft
WEEK 8 Spring Week	Spring Craft	Spring Craft	Spring Craft	Spring Craft	Spring Craft
WEEK 9 Maths Week	Sultana Maths	Making maths fun with Buttons	Looking at volume and density	Number Fruit	What's the Time?
WEEK 10 Literacy Week	Creating letters with fruit	Word Bingo	Dr Seuss Activity Book	Making words from magazines	Let's get acting – The 3 Little Pigs

The Best of Both Worlds

One of the real advantages that stand out at Mitchell Street Kindergarten from others is that you and your child can enjoy the perfect combination of kindergarten and long day care programs.

The Mitchell Street Kindergarten program is offered in a dedicated area of our early learning environment, which means:

- If your child attends Mitchell Street Early Learning Centre, they can progress to kindergarten in an environment in which they already feel happy and comfortable.
- No need to interrupt your child's day by moving them between two separate locations for sessional kindergarten and long day care.
- By enrolling in a Mitchell Street Kindergarten program, your child can remain at the one location with the same group of children and teachers, from when they arrive to when you collect them at the end of the day.



Your child is an individual at Mitchell Street

Each child has a unique personality, and their own special set of talents and skills. That's why it's so important to choose the right kindergarten. One that values your child's individuality, supports who they are and provides them with an approach to learning that is based on their specific strengths and expectations.

Keeping you in the loop

We see your child's education as a partnership between you, your child and your child's teacher, so we welcome your interest and involvement in your child's learning. We also hold parent/teacher interviews and information evenings where you are able to discuss your child's progress directly with their teacher.

Moving on to school

At the end of the kindergarten year, you will receive a formal School Transitional statement from Mitchell Street Kindergarten, which you can provide to your child's school. Mitchell Street Kindergarten builds and maintains strong working relationships with local schools to help make your child's transition from kindergarten into primary school a smooth and happy one for both of you. This will include some local school visit to ease your child's transition.



Quality is the Key

Kindergarten is such an exciting time for children. The experiences they have in these years can shape their approach to learning and can help them make the transition to school smoothly and confidently.

This is why a stimulating and nurturing environment and high-quality early learning experiences are so important. This is a time when they are exploring new friendships, learning to make decisions and becoming more aware of their abilities.

Children at kindergarten age learn most effectively through play. Mitchell Street Kindergarten offers a professionally developed, play based learning program, designed to enhance children's learning and development with the support of qualified and experienced teachers and educators.



Mitchell Street offers a quality play-based learning program, combined with unique intentional teaching.

- A happy, stimulating and nurturing environment.
- An environment where each child is encouraged to learn and develop at their own pace.
- Teacher and educators who are tertiary qualified and have a passion for children.
- Developmentally appropriate educational resources and toys.
- Regular opportunities for parents to discuss their child's learning and development.
- Strong relationships with local schools to help facilitate a positive transition to primary school for each child and their family.



Speciality Experiences

We pride our program on having a variety of speciality experiences that are not so often found in an Early Childhood Program. Here, at Mitchell Street we aim to provide the highest level of care and education possible, which is why we have designed a program to accommodate this. Some of the speciality experiences we offer include –

- Learning the French Language – Running twice a week, a professional bilingual French teacher attends the program, teaching the French language to the children. (Language may be subject to change).
- Ipad use – With such an importance on technology these days, children work in small groups during different periods of the day. These are for learning purposes only and include apps such as number & letter recognition, shapes, colours, mix & match games and more.
- 'Welcome to country' – Each morning we pay respects to the traditional land holders using song and dance (A detailed description can be found over the page).
- Projector Use – The projector provides teachers with an extra tool for learning. Quite often, children are involved in watching mini clips that reinforce their learning. Such things include – number and letter songs, science experiments, art activities, etc.
- Sports Program – During our afternoon session, children are involved in a variety of fitness activities. These include, but are not limited to – group games, running races, obstacle courses.
- Science – On a regular basis, children are involved in science. Some of the favourite experiments have been layered liquids, the effects of bi-carb soda, foaming fizz and dancing raisins.



The Importance of 'Welcome to Country'

At Mitchell Street we pride ourselves on being a little bit different. We respect the elders of the land, in particular the Wathaurong people and pay our respects to past and present traditional land holders. Although children learn so much through a play-based program, we endeavour to provide much more than this. Children become accustomed to the daily routine of the program and become confident with the familiarity of the learning environment. One aspect of the program we are passionate about is "Welcome to Country" which occurs at the beginning of the program.

'Welcome to Country' is all about acknowledging our ancestors of this land. To initiate this, children are involved in reading a story, fittingly titled '*Welcome to Country*'. Children are invited to speak about the Aboriginals and what the story means to them. Clapsticks, in which the children have painted themselves, are then used for a traditional Aboriginal dance that is shown on a projector. We welcome children to get up and dance during this time.



Incursions and Excursions

One of the many benefits of having your child attend our 4 year-old Kindergarten program is the wide variety of extra-curricular activities we offer. Each term we aim to have one incursion and one excursion, which in the past have been a huge success. These include –

Incursions -

- Bravehearts Program – A program designed to teach children about keeping safe. Here, they meet Ditto the Bear who engages and excited the children.
- Living Eggs Hatching Program – Live chickens and fertile eggs are set up for the children. Children watch the chickens hatching and learn about the life cycle of chickens.
- Storytime with a local Librarian – Around Book Week, a local librarian comes to visit the children. It is here that they will spend the morning reading their favourite stories.
- Animals/Reptiles/Insects – Varying companies deliver opportunities for children to have hands-on and engaging experiences.

Excursions –

- Geelong Library – Children are taken on a tour of the library for the morning.
- Werribee Zoo - Spending the day at the zoo, children learn about the different animals and habitats they live in.
- Geelong Hospital – Children are taken on a tour of the hospital, paying particular attention to the children's ward.



The National Quality Framework

In 2012, the Australian Government implemented the National Quality Framework to raise quality and drive continuous improvements and consistency in Australian education and care services.

The Framework sets new standards to deliver:

- Improved educator-to-child ratio
- Educators with increased skills and qualifications
- Better support for children's learning and development
- A national register to help parents assess the quality of education and care services in their area
- Education programs in accordance with the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

What's The Story Here In Victoria?

Proven benefits of early childhood education in children's learning, health and behaviour has prompted Victoria to provide access for all children to 15 hours of a quality early childhood education program in the year before school.

This program will be delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher and will be available in long day care centres, community kindergartens, schools, children's hubs and other early childhood settings.

The Victorian guidelines follow the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF) and cover five key areas of development:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators.

The VEYLDF is designed to advance all children learning and development from birth to eight years of age.

Government Funding is Available

Trying to understand the benefits and rebates available to parents can get confusing. Mitchell Street will be able to provide you with some more information but here are some answers to some questions you may have.

What is Child Care Subsidy (CCS)?

Child Care Benefit is a payment from the Australian Government that helps you with the cost of your childcare.

Who can get CCS?

You may be eligible for CCS if you are a parent, relationship parents, foster parents or grandparents with a child in your care who is attending childcare services approved by, or registered with, the government.

How much CCS will we receive?

This depends on:

- Your income
- The type of care you use (approved or registered)
- The amount of care you use
- The reason you are using care
- How many of your children are in care

More Information

More information can be found online, Visit mychild.gov.au or speak with our Centre Director.

Further Information

For any additional information please feel free to contact the centre on (03) 5245 7670, additionally updates, helpful information and changes to our policies can be found on our website – www.mitchellstreetlc.com.au