



# Lilly Pilly Community Preschool

## FAMILY HANDBOOK

*The staff and management committee of Lilly Pilly Community Pre-school extend a warm welcome to your child. It is a privilege and gift of trust to be caring for your child during these formative years. We look forward to supporting your child's journey together with you.*

### PHILOSOPHY

*Lilly Pilly Preschool offers a safe home-like environment based on the National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and we are guided by the Early Years Learning Framework. Lilly Pilly Community Preschool believes very strongly in Play and Predictability for our young children. Also the importance of the three R's: Rhyme, Repetition and Rhythm.*

The objectives of Lilly Pilly Preschool include: PLAY, PLAY AND MORE PLAY

To nurture in each child a sense of Belonging. We recognize that the child's family is their first teacher and we strive to extend on this by helping to make the children feel as comfortable as possible and part of our Lilly Pilly Home and Family.

To nourish in each child a sense of Being, to experience what is happening now, life in the present. For the children in our care to fully experience being four or five years old without the pressure of feeling rushed or hurried to grow up. For the Kingdom of Early Childhood to be celebrated within our Lilly Pilly home so the children feel celebrated and accepted for who they are and that the children are given space and time to enjoy their childhood ; Play is vitally important.

For the children to feel supported in their sense of Becoming as they experience changes as they grow, learn and develop and for our educators to honour and respect the unfolding development of the children in our care.

### Program

*Life in pre-school can be compared to living and working in a large family. The group of children comprises of 30 girls and boys between the ages of 3 and 6.*

*The program is arranged so as to strike a balance between free play, in which the children use their own initiative and general activities and intentional teaching which the whole group participates. There is a daily mix of play and rest, creativity and receptivity, free play and listening. The day is rhythmically structured and ordered to provide artistic and imaginative activities, games and rhyme, music and storytelling. We also include domestic activities such as washing, sweeping and packing away.*

*The experience of enjoying and caring for their preschool helps children build an appreciation of the environment and fosters a healthy outlook on the wider world.*





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*The education of small children is based on rhythm and repetition. We provide a variety of general activities that adhere to rhythmic sequence. Children have an intimate relationship with their surroundings and this is something we actively cultivate. We take a lot of inspiration from the cycle of the year and many of our activities are linked with events of the seasons. We try to help the children develop an increasingly deep and living relationship with the cycle of nature.*

**Hours** of operation are 9am till 3pm. We operate a 5 day fortnight program so children have a long week and a short week.

*Our Blossom group is every Monday and Tuesday plus every second Wednesday.*

*Our Possum group is every Thursday and Friday plus every second Wednesday.*

*We follow the NSW school holidays.*

### **Daily Requirements**

*Suitable play clothes and footwear (no thongs or Crocs)*

*A hat which can stay at Lilly Pilly for the year*

*A complete change of clothes*

*A wholesome lunch in a lunch box (please avoid processed and packaged foods we prefer nude food)*

*Water only in a pop top drink bottle.*

*Slippers for winter*

*N.B All items must be clearly labeled*

*The attendance book must be completed at the beginning and end of the day.*

**Toys** are to stay at home please as experience has shown us that personal toys and games can cause more tears than joy. Natures treasures and flowers are always welcome for our seasonal table as is a Childs' comforter for rest time.

**Sickness** and vomiting must stay at home, 24 hours after the last vomit. If children require medication, they are often too ill to be with other children. We ask that you keep them home until they have fully recovered.

**Nits-** please check the night and morning before pre-school as this saves a phone call and early pick up.

**Birthdays** are an important celebration of pre-school life. We celebrate birthdays by creating an afternoon birthday house with parents/siblings/extended family coming in at 2:30pm with a few photographs from birth till present, showing the child's growing up story. We make a birthday cake to share with everyone as we celebrate with each family.

**Management:** Lilly Pilly is a non-profit, community-based organisation and registered charity administered by a management committee of parent/carers elected at the Annual General Meeting. The committee meets twice a term on a Wednesday afternoon. Executive positions include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer. Parents are also invited to attend meeting in a non-executive role.



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Getting involved in the management committee is a great way to have a say in how your child's preschool is run. Ideas, creativity, skills and enthusiasm are welcomed. We love parent involvement, please [get in touch!](#)

Lilly Pilly Community Preschool is licensed by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) and agrees to comply with the specified code of conduct and regulations. Lilly Pilly is a non-profit, community-based organisation and registered charity.

### **Funding**

*As a community based preschool we attract a Department of Education grant, this requires us to maintain a certain standard of care and management. The grant together with fees collected from parent/carers represents our budget. It is expended on wages, administration costs, equipment and funds for special projects. As an incorporated body, our financial affairs are subject to independent annual audit.*

### **Fees**

*Fees are to be paid by week 5 of every term. We trust you honour and respect this please.*



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