**Choosing a Kindergarten**

Information on how to choose a Kindergarten can be found on the Victorian State Government Department of Education and Training website. The link to the site is below:

[**https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten/Pages/choose-best-kindergarten.aspx**](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten/Pages/choose-best-kindergarten.aspx)

Here are our answers to the questions the Department of Education and Training suggest you ask when looking for a Kindergarten for your child:

**Questions you can ask**

To help decide if a kindergarten is suitable, ask these questions:

* What is the quality rating?

Langwarrin Preschool has an overall rating of Exceeding the National Quality Standards. We were last assessed in December 2017 and received an exceeding rating in all 7 Quality Areas.

* Are places available for the days and hours I need?

We offer 2 groups of four year old Kinder and 1 three year old Kinder group. Our timetable is located on our website under the ‘session times’ tab

* Does the kindergarten operate throughout the year or only during certain times, like school terms?

As a community-based Kindergarten we are a stand-alone Kinder rather than a child-care centre. Therefore, we operate only in term times. Our groups operate more like a school cohort, whereby the class is a group of children who all come together for their group’s session times and have set teachers for their group. We follow Victorian School terms.

* Do they offer a funded kindergarten program?

Yes, we offer a funded Kinder program for 4 year old Kindergarten.

* What are the fees?

Fees are adjusted yearly in line with our Fees Policy review. Fees are charged per term and a deposit is required to be paid when accepting a place at the Kindergarten. Families falling into certain criteria are able to access the 4 year old Kindergarten fee subsidy and attend Kindergarten free of charge. For information about this please visit <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten/Pages/how-much-kindergarten-cost.aspx> and if you require further information on fees please email our office administrator Kellie Sherry at kellielangwarrinpreschool@gmail.com

* Are there any other costs on top of the fees?

There are some small costs on top of our fees. Parents are sometimes asked to contribute to the cost of a bus to attend an excursion (this may be around $10 an excursion once or twice a year for the 4 year old groups), are able to contribute to our fundraising events and activities if they would like to be involved, can choose to purchase books through our Book Club and are required to pay a levy if they choose not to contribute to fundraising events or attend Kinder working bees.

* Is there a fee to be placed on the waiting list?

There is an initial fee to register you child with the Frankston City Council who allocate Kindergarten places in the Frankston Shire. Information regarding this fee is located on the Frankston City Council website: <https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/Our_Community/Family_Services/Kindergartens/Kindergartens_Introduction_and_Registration>

* Do they offer extended care?

We are a Kindergarten, not a childcare centre, so we have set session times for our groups and do not offer extended care. We have a childcare centre located across the road from us and we are happy to pick your child up from the centre and drop them back to the centre after their Kinder session has finished.

* How do they support children with additional needs?

We are an inclusive Kindergarten and support the inclusion of children with additional needs. If your child has specific needs that you would like to speak to us about, please don’t hesitate to contact the Kinder on 0397765700 or email langwarrin.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

* What happens if my child is unwell, upset, or unsettled?

Information about our procedures when a child is unwell, upset or unsettled is shared with parents through our Information Books and at our Information Session for parents and caregivers when the children start Kinder. We have a great transition program to ease children into Kindergarten and will always work with families to ensure each child is well settled. Procedures for how we assist children who are feeling unwell are also discussed through these means.

* How are food and drink given to the children?

At Kinder, children bring their own food for snacks and lunch. We have a Nutrition, Oral Health and Active Play Policy we follow and children are encouraged to bring healthy food and a water bottle filled with water to each session.

* How do they give medication?

We follow the Early Childhood Services Regulations (2008) and our Administration of Medication Policy to administer medication at Kinder.

**Information on how to enrol for Kinder**

Enrolment into Langwarrin Preschool is operated through Frankston City Council’s central enrolment system. For more information about enrolling into Kinder from the Department of Education and Training please visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten/Pages/enrol-in-kindergarten.aspx>

For information about Frankston City Council’s central enrolment system or to enrol please call the Shire on 1300 322 322 or visit:

<https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/Our_Community/Family_Services/Kindergartens/Kindergartens_Introduction_and_Registration>