

Welcome to MPC...

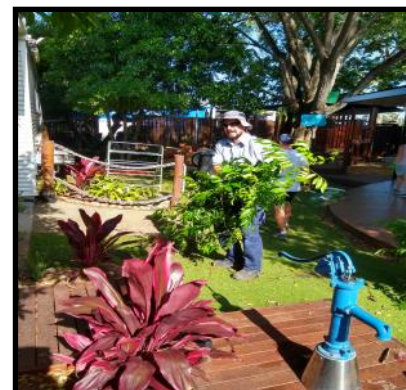
A Warm Welcome from the Committee

Welcome to all the new and returning 2021 families. What a lovely start to the year with glorious weather this week. I hope you all had a wonderful start to your kindy experience at MPC.

Firstly, thank you very much to the band of willing parents and MPC staff who worked feverishly to transform the kindy grounds into the inviting spaces they are now.

Thank you also to the teaching teams who, aside from welcoming children to their play mornings, spent two days together discussing a range of topics both visionary and practical.

One of the focus areas is developing some key words and making the MPC philosophy 'alive' and more evident for families. Another focus area is building knowledge, skills and ways to support both children with ASD and their families. Keep your eye for further information as the year progresses.



Please email your child's teacher or call or your child's room directly for absences. If you are delayed in the afternoon and wish to book into After Kindy Care , please ensure you contact your child's teacher.

Please add your child's Unit phone number to your contacts.

Unit 1: 33552536

Unit 2: 33553899

Unit 3: 33552552

B&A Care: 0416597696

The Committee would like to invite you to the Annual "Meet the Teachers" and Annual General Meeting evening on Monday 8th February. We plan to chat with the teaching teams and have the AGM while outside, keeping in mind our requirement to allow for 1.5 m distance between adults.

Refreshments and Meet the Teachers from 7.00pm.

RSVP on list near sign on books by 5th Feb

News from the Director (Leanne Hunter)

We hope you have had a happy introduction to Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre and trust that you and your family will settle into kindy life quickly. The Play mornings were a fabulous way for children to become a little more familiar and build on their sense of belonging to MPC. Parents and children separating and saying good-bye is very smooth for some and can be challenging for others. Time and practice often eases this process as the teaching teams support individual children (and parents) to move from moments of sadness to feelings of calm and excitement. You may like to read an article ***Saying goodbye...*** on MPC's blog accessed at <https://mpc.net.au/general/saying-goodbye/>

Many parents, rightly, gave themselves a high five for even getting here on time! It takes time to get to know the routine and meet other children and families. Becoming familiar with everyday kindy life will continue for some time and it is important to remember that everyone at MPC is here to help. We expect that there will be very many questions, expressions of joy and worry. Please remember that we believe that there are no silly questions at MPC!

Teachers are always happy to talk with you however drop off pick up times are busy with greeting and farewelling all children and families. You are welcome to wait for a few minutes in the afternoons, email or call later in the day.

Starting kindy, like many changes, can be a big thing! Even for children who are familiar with walking through the front gate, there are changes with different children, group dynamics, teaching styles and the like. Sharing space, equipment and adult attention takes on a whole new meaning. Some children may also be adjusting to changes in their feelings as they find their place and space within a group of children. Sometimes challenges occur. Our general response is to explain, validate feelings, support and allow time for children to adjust. As always, individual differences are considered which sometimes determines an alternative response.

These first few weeks are a really important time for staff members, children and families to get to know each other. We ask that you consider the following:

- ◆ We are aware that for some families, dropping off and collecting your kindy child has to be co-ordinated with other children, however we encourage you to arrive as close as possible to your group's starting and finishing times. This enables your child to settle into the day and make connections with other children as they decide where to play. This will also help with car parking as each group should have enough time to leave before the next group is ready to start.
- ◆ Please remember to check your parent pockets on your unit verandah and noticeboards for information. In the central courtyard you will find noticeboards for B & A Care, Sustainability, Educational and Community News. Some information about the day may also be found near your child's unit entry gate or verandah or may be emailed to you. We do try to write a few comments about the day to give you some 'conversation starters' with your child.
- ◆ Getting into a routine takes time....please don't worry if initially, lunches are not all eaten, or if your child seems unusually tired, cranky or doesn't want to tell you anything about his/her day. Your child may share information later in the day when relaxed (sometimes in the bath or while reading a story at night).
- ◆ Information about **food** and **drinks** can be found in the Parent Information Handbook. Please send a non-insulated lunch box as insulated bags prevent the cold air from keeping lunches fresh when placed in the fridge.
- ◆ Summer weather is an added difficulty for the children and adults at the moment. We actively encourage the children to drink water throughout the day. Please make sure your child has loose comfortably play clothes which he/she can easily manage and doesn't worry about getting painted or dirty.
- ◆ We suggest you apply sunscreen and insect repellent (if required) before your child starts each morning. This is available near all sign in areas.

We hope you enjoy the year ahead at Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre and we look forward as a staff team to getting to know all our children's families.

Summary of a few kindy policies ...



Lady Gowrie, which is MPC's Central Governing Body, regularly reviews policies. These policies are then reviewed and discussed by the staff team and committee members along with any interested parents before being adopted. The essential

information from many policies is included in the Parent Information Handbook and all policies are available for viewing in the central foyer. We also endeavour to highlight new policy information in the newsletter from time-to-time. Information about three policies follows.

Immunisation:

It is strongly recommended that all children have their immunisation schedule up to date before commencing at our Centre. In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, all families will be notified. Any non-immunised children will be required to be withdrawn from the centre until the risk has passed in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council exclusion guidelines.

All parents are requested to inform a staff member if their child or other members of the immediate family contracts a vaccine preventable disease. Historically, MPC has had an immunisation rate of enrolled children higher than 97% with a small percentage of children not-immunised for a variety of reasons.

Please ensure that MPC has your child's updated immunisation record. For further information, please refer to the Immunisation Policy located in the Gowrie Policy folder in the central foyer.

When a child is unwell:

Where a child is showing any flu like symptoms (fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, coughing) their parent/guardian is to be called and immediate collection of the child from the service requested. Staff continue to complete an IITI Record as per normal procedures. An isolation space where the child can still be supervised and supported will be established.



Where a child has a temperature reading of **38.0 or higher** this initiates a call to the parent/guardian asking for the child to be collected.

COVID-19 Safe plan: MPC responds to all Health Department directives and makes adjustments accordingly. (Extract) Key strategies to reduce the possibility of COVID-19 include:

- 1.5m physical distancing for adults;
- Hand-washing for children;
- Keeping unwell children at home;
- Staff to stay at home if unwell and abide with directives in relation to COVID testing;
- Staff to monitor health of attending children. (E.G. Parent contacted to collect unwell child.)

To read the full plan, please refer to the Policy folder in the central foyer.

If you are here early...



Please feel free to explore the front courtyard if you are here a few minutes before your child's starting time.

There are books to read and the watering cans are also ready if you and your child would like to do a little watering!

News from the Admin team

TERM ONE FEES and B & A CARE PERMANENT BOOKING INVOICES

Invoices for Kindy Fees and B & A Care (if applicable) have been emailed to all families and are due for payment by **12th February**. Please check your spam/junk folder if you have not received it and move to your usual inbox so you don't miss future emails from us.

Fees can either be paid by cash, direct deposit into our bank account (preferred option) or credit card (a 1% surcharge applies).

If you would like to pay your fees in instalments during the term, please see Chris or Sue in the office for a "Fee Payment Plan", or email the office and we can send the form through to you.

Health Care Cards/Pensioner Concession Cards/DVA Gold/White cards

The Queensland Government offers subsidies to families who have a health care card or equivalent concession card by providing a subsidy to our Centre to reduce the cost of their child's kindy fees.

If you or your child have one of the above Government Concession cards, and you haven't advised us on your enrolment documentation please drop into the office.

OFFICE HOURS

The office will open on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.30am to 3.00pm** for all enquiries, purchases of merchandise and payment of fees.

AUTHORISATIONS TO COLLECT CHILDREN. If you would like to add additional persons to the list of nominated adults who can collect your child please see your child's teacher or Chris in the office to complete the required form. Children can **only** be collected by persons listed on your child's file.

MPC Enrolment Lists 2022 to 2024

- ◆ Do you have younger children?
- ◆ Do you want the option of sending them to MPC?
- ◆ Is their name on the Enrolment Waiting List?

Do it now!you will then have peace of mind, knowing you don't have to think about it anymore. It's easy. Complete a form online or collect one from the office. Complete an additional form if you are considering MPC 3's group. (MPC does not have a sibling policy).



Parking at schools and kindergartens is always challenging particularly at the beginning of the year.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Please obey the NO STANDING and LIMITED TIME parking signs.
- Arrive only 5 minutes prior to your Unit's starting time.
- Check for parking in the railway carparks.
- Park in Blackwood St and walk on the pedestrian walkway beside the train tracks.
- Arrange carpooling with friends once your child is familiar with the centre.
- If you're planning to stay for a short time in the morning,, please DO NOT park in the 10 min zone.
- Please consider parents with babies and young children with prams.

At Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre we view children as individuals and social learners. We believe in the importance of inclusion and acknowledge that children come from diverse backgrounds and bring unique strengths, experiences and understandings of their world. We recognise the Turrbul people as the traditional custodians of this land on which we learn and play.

The fundamental focus for all decision making is the well-being of children and their growth and learning. In the learning environment, play is valued as a significant means for learning and allows opportunities for children to co-create the curriculum. Play can provide insights into children's interests, skills, beliefs, joys, anxieties and frustrations. We encourage healthy, sustainable practices and value everyday, incidental and intentional experiences.

We believe that the connections made through listening, playing, talking, noticing, wondering and questioning provide a rich and significant context for children's learning. We consider partnerships as integral components of the curriculum. Opportunities are created for families to share - in all aspects of our learning community. We encourage children, families and staff to make meaningful connections and develop a sense of belonging, place and well-being within the Mitchelton Pre- Schooling Centre environment and the broader community.

Deciding on the three key words to exemplify our Philosophy is proving to be a challenging task. We will be seeking your input as the year progresses. At the moment our top choices are:

Relationships

Play

Well-being

News from Before & After Kindy Care....

The B&A staff team are looking forward to getting to know you and your children.

Before and After Kindy Care aims to provide a relaxed caring environment for children to enjoy before and/or after their regular day. All children attending MPC are welcome to use this additional service on either a permanent basis or casual (just for the occasion when you aren't able to drop off or collect at your usual children's day program hours)

Hours of operation for the program are:-

Every morning 7.00am to 9.00am

Every afternoon 2.15pm to 5.30pm

If you wish to make a permanent booking, please call in to the office to complete a "permanent booking" form. Permanent bookings receive a 25% discount off the Casual Rate. **Fees for Permanent OK Care bookings will be invoiced and payable in advance.** Alternatively you may use this service on a casual basis – please add your child's name to any session you wish them to attend in the B & A sign in/out folder in the back courtyard. Invoices for casual use will be issued twice per term and payment will be required within 7 days.

Further information is available on our website, from the admin staff, teachers and in the Parent Handbook.

Where is it?

The following documents are on the shelf in the wooden cupboards in the central foyer, ready for your reading pleasure!

- ⇒ Curriculum documents:
 - * Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
 - * Queensland kindergarten learning guideline (Qklg)
- ⇒ Education and Care Laws and Regulations
- ⇒ MPC/Gowrie Policies
- ⇒ MPC Historical photos
- ⇒ MPC's Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)



What is a **Quality Improvement Plan**?

The National Regulations require approved services to have a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). The aim of a QIP is to help providers self-assess their performance in delivering quality education and care and to plan future improvements. The QIP also helps the regulatory authorities with their assessment of the service. A QIP helps providers to document the strengths of their services and to recognise areas for improvement. MPC developed a QIP which reflects our unique context and the community.

Teachers, educators, children, families and the community are welcome to contribute to the QIP.

Creating Childhood Memories
Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre Inc.

Experience the fun of
PLAYGROUP
at Mitchelton Pre-Schooling Centre

- ✓ Welcoming all children 0-5 yrs!
(including families not enrolled at MPC)
- ✓ Facilitated by one of our MPC staff members
- ✓ Runs every 2nd Saturday during school terms*
- ✓ Offering a stimulating, safe and friendly environment for families to come together to play and build relationships.
- ✓ Email admin@mpc.net.au to register your interest

*approximately

29 Kedron Ave Mitchelton
(next to the train station)
phone 3355 2535 • mpc.net.au



Jo is looking forward to welcoming you to Playgroup.

TERM ONE DATES:

6th Feb and 20th Feb

6th March and 20th March

TIME: Saturday mornings 9am to 10.30am

COST: \$10.00 per session

\$40.00 per family for 4 sessions.

Kindy on Saturday is quite different to sharing the space with a big group of children. Their parent/s and maybe siblings are also there too! This may be an opportunity for your child to become even more familiar with our lovely kindy spaces and for you as parents to chat with other families in this area.

Playgroup is open to any families with children up to 5 years (they don't have to be enrolled at MPC), so feel free to let your friends and neighbours know about our Saturday playgroup.

Have you seen the Parent Library?

Our Parent Library is tucked away on the left as you enter the foyer. There are fabulous books which prompt thinking about a broad range of topics centred around children and families. Topics include:

- Healthy eating - Food
- Supporting children's learning
- Diverse needs
- Gardening/Sustainability
- Guiding children's behaviour
- Personal growth and understandings
- Books to read with children. (These books are useful to prompt conversations about sickness, death, positive mindset, perseverance, different ways of being, being brave, managing anger and other emotions, trying new foods, PTSD and many more.)



May be useful if your child is missing you at kindy.

May be useful for managing fears and worries. Thinking about them in a different way.



The Everyday Learning Series Booklets, located in the central courtyard are a **quick read** full of practical information on a range of topics. Topics include: *About Feelings; Being Green; About Play and Learning; About Sleep; Being Adventurous; Children's Behaviour: Fears and Anxieties; How Things work; Imagination; Maths and Numeracy; Supporting Brain Development; Fussy Eaters; Kids in the Kitchen; Technology: Our tool not our master ; Meaningful Conversations with Children; Transition in children's everyday lives.*

A list of topics is next to the hanging shelves.

Could you please complete the borrowing form on the shelf next above to enable other parents to read when returned.

Have you seen more re-cycling possibilities?

Building sustainability understandings is very important to us at MPC. Your children are already learning to sort fruit and vegetable scraps and any other rubbish they may have. Option include:

- Food for the worms and compost bins
- Containers we can wash and use for collage
- Soft plastics (which we take to Coles/Woolworths collection stations)
- Rubbish which can't be re-cycled.

It is incredible pleasing to note that many children are bringing lunchboxes with little or no packaging. Thank you families.

In the central courtyard, we have another re-cycling stations with containers for collecting other materials that can be re-cycled including:

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Bread tags
- Coffee pods

Once the container is full, these recyclables are packed and sent to Terra Cycle Australia for processing into other items. This link provides more information www.terracycle.com/en-AU/.

As an added bonus the kindy receives points which can be converted to donations. MPC will donate to Ronald Macdonald House at Herston.

Putting these items in these containers is another great opportunity for you to talk with your child about re-cycling and the positive ways they can contribute to 'looking after our world'. Who know where this knowledge and everyday practices will take your children. The ripple effect can be very powerful!

WANTED for use in our Kindy program!

Recycled and Reusables

Cardboard boxes, cartons and cylinders (except toilet rolls)

Glass jars and baby food jars

Beads and buttons

Carpet and lino samples

Ribbon, fabric samples, hessian, wool and fur pieces

Tins, containers and lids

Sheets, blankets, cushions

Different kinds of paper (A4, A3, architect paper), tissue, wrapping...

Trays

Ceramic pots

Wooden plates

Wooden boxes

Old cutlery and cooking utensils

Pots and pans

Vases

Table clothes

The list goes on ...