



Highgate Primary School

Kindergarten Handbook 2018



Friendship | Respect | Success



Highgate Primary School Kindergarten

Highgate Primary School Kindergarten: 4 Broome Street
Highgate WA 6003
Phone: 9328 5825

Highgate Primary School: 147 Lincoln Street
Highgate WA 6003
Phone: 9328 4201



After School Care (OSH Club): 0468 618 526

Website: www.highgateps.wa.edu.au

Uniform Shop Website: www.uniformshop.highgateps.wa.edu.au

Email: highgate.ps@education.wa.edu.au

Office Hours: 8.00am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday

Absentees

If your child is going to be absent from Kindy for any reason, it is appreciated if you can phone (9328 5825) and let us know on the day.

If your child is going to be away for an extended period of time, we would appreciate if you could discuss this with us before you leave.

Allergies

Please alert your child's teacher to any allergies your child may have.

App – Skoolbag

Skoolbag provides schools with a way to tell parents/carers everything they need to know, and it provides parents with the most convenient way to receive school notifications. School newsletters, school notices and alerts are communicated directly to the parent smartphone through the Skoolbag school Mobile App.



Change of Clothes

Please provide at least one or two full changes of clothes (including socks).

Fully toilet trained children often have toileting accidents at Kindy, when they are too busy or distracted to remember to go to the toilet.

Birthdays

We love celebrating your child's birthday at Kindy.

We prefer snacks or small, simple, plain cupcakes or muffins that your child can give to each of his or her friends.

Collecting Your Child

If your child is going to be collected by a person not listed on your enrolment information form, please let the teacher know by filling in the book near the front door, or by calling Kindy. We cannot let your child go with another parent or friend unless we have your verbal or written permission.

Fruit and Lunch Time

Fruit time is shared (a piece of fruit to be brought in each day by each child).

At lunch time, your child eats from their own lunch box. Please provide a healthy choice lunch, as this supports our program of healthy eating. We prefer no sweets, chocolates or chips. An ice brick/pack is a great idea to keep your child's lunch fresh and cool.

In Case of Illness or Emergency

If your child is unwell at school, we will phone you immediately. Please ensure your child's teacher has your most recent phone numbers and phone numbers of other people who we can contact if you are unavailable.

Medications

If your child requires medication to be administered during the day at Kindy, please see the teacher as forms will need to be completed.

Name Labels

Please label everything your child brings to Kindy with their name.

Nut Awareness

Please be conscious that we are a 'nut aware' school. It would be appreciated if you could ensure that any food brought to school does not contain peanuts or peanut/nut products.

Parent Involvement

We welcome any family members (eg Mum, Dad, Grandparent, Aunty, older sibling etc) who would like to spend some time with us at Kindy.

Sometimes you might be asked to help with a particular activity; however our main focus is to allow you to work/play alongside your child. Some of the most wonderful learning occurs when an adult plays with a group of children, talks to them, listens and has fun. You may have a special activity that you would like to share with the children eg cooking, investigation, gardening, story book, art or craft activity.

We also like to recognise special events that are happening for your family throughout the year.

Parent / Teacher Meetings

Your child's teacher is very happy to discuss any questions you may have, before or after school. If you have any concerns about your child that you would like to discuss with the teacher, a more formal meeting time can easily be arranged.

Reporting to Parents

If you have any concerns about your child, no matter how small you think they are, please make a time to come in and chat with us. We will also contact you if we have any concerns or important matters to discuss.

At the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2, you will receive a comprehensive report that outlines your child's development of skills and understandings across the five outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework.

We will also be putting together a portfolio of your child's work over the year.

Shoes

To encourage your child's independence, please send them to Kindy with shoes they can manage themselves and remove and put back on independently.

Start Date and Times

Group	Start Date for 2017	Daily Start and Finish Times
RED	Wednesday 31 January 2018	Monday 8:40am to 2:55pm Alternate Wednesdays 8:40am to 2:55pm Thursday 8:40am to 2:55pm
BLUE	Wednesday 31 January 2018	
GREEN	Friday 2 February 2018	Tuesday 8:40am to 2:55pm Alternate Wednesdays 8:40am to 2:55pm Friday 8:40am to 2:55pm
YELLOW	Friday 2 February 2018	

Water Bottles

Please provide a drink bottle with water only.

Kindy Checklist

Please ensure your child has, every day:

- Broad brimmed hat
- Water bottle
- Fruit to share (or cheese, crackers, popcorn etc)
- Shoes that are easy to take on and off independently
- One or two changes of clothes
- Lunch
- School bag (that is large enough to fill all of your child's belongings)



THIS BOOKLET IS FOR YOU AS YOUR CHILD STARTS KINDERGARTEN

It takes you through what happens in a typical day in Kindergarten and includes ideas to help settle your child into school.

As your child's first teacher, the role you play is vital. The early years of school build on the experiences your child has at home and sets the foundation for all their future learning.

There are lots of things you can do to support your child's learning.

This booklet gives you ideas of what you can do at home to add to the exciting things your child is learning each day at Kindergarten.

DISCOVER OUR RANGE OF ONLINE BOOKLETS AND FACTSHEETS FILLED WITH FUN IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD.
W: EDUCATION.WA.EDU.AU

YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL JOURNEY

Children learn many important things before they start school.

They learn from you at home, from friends and family, in local playgroups, at Child and Parent Centres, and at child/family daycare if they attend. They bring all of this learning with them to school when they start Kindergarten.

Children learn best when they are supported by their families. The more you are involved in your child's learning and the more you talk with the teacher, the better you can both support your child. A strong partnership with the school and regular contact with the teacher makes sure your child gets the best start to school.

In Kindergarten, your child continues to build on the important skills they have developed with you at home. These skills may include your child being able to talk about things that interest them; draw pictures; pretend write; recognise colours, numbers, sizes and shapes; and share with others.

YOUR ENTHUSIASM HELPS YOUR CHILD SETTLE INTO KINDERGARTEN AND BE PROUD OF THE THINGS THEY LEARN EACH DAY.

EARLY EXPERIENCES AND BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Children's brains are a 'work in progress!'

In the first few years of life, your child's brain grows rapidly. The experiences you have with your child during these years are extremely important. A fun, happy and safe environment at home, school and within the school community helps your child develop socially, emotionally and intellectually.

Play is particularly important in childhood learning. Play gives children opportunities to develop imagination, practise skills, communicate with others, take on challenges and solve problems in fun and enjoyable ways.

Singing, playing games, building, playing make believe, talking, climbing, dancing, reading, writing and drawing all help your child's brain develop ways of thinking and learning.

KINDERGARTEN: BEGINNING THE SCHOOL JOURNEY

Magical. This is often how families describe Kindergarten classrooms. Rooms are filled with children's work, colourful posters and interesting displays for everyone to see. There is a range of activity areas where your child can discover, imagine, create and learn through play.

Kindergarten is the first learning experience your child has of school – of the wonder and excitement of learning, discovery and exploration.

While Kindergarten is not compulsory in Western Australia, attendance is highly recommended as your child builds on important social and emotional skills that help them throughout their school life. They also develop early maths, speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.

Many schools hold parent information sessions before the school year starts or during the first few weeks of term. This gives you the opportunity to meet the teacher and other families, and to find out what is planned for the year. If you are unable to attend, contact the school or talk with the teacher to make another time to meet.

BE SUN SMART!
MAKE SURE YOUR
CHILD HAS A HAT
AND WEARS
SUNSCREEN EVERY
DAY.

Your child's teacher often sends home written information and it is important to take the time to read these messages.

If you show you are confident and happy about school, your child picks up on this. This is important in encouraging a love of learning and enthusiasm for going to school each day.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE DAY?

Kindergarten runs for 15 hours each week. Some schools run a combination of full and half days each week, while others run only half days or only full days. Talk with your school to find out how the program is set up.

Some schools encourage children to wear the school uniform in Kindergarten. For further information, contact your school to check its uniform policy and where to buy uniform items.

The teacher plans regular breaks each day so your child can eat and play. Some schools may ask you to contribute fruit and healthy snacks which are shared with all children at snack time.

If your child is in a full day Kindergarten program, pack a healthy lunch in

IF SOMEONE ELSE IS
COLLECTING YOUR CHILD
AFTER SCHOOL – SUCH
AS A GRANDPARENT OR
A CARER – PLEASE LET
YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER
KNOW. TEACHERS MAKE
SURE EACH CHILD IS
COLLECTED BY
SOMEONE THEY KNOW
EACH DAY SO IT IS
IMPORTANT TO KEEP
THE SCHOOL INFORMED.

wrappers and containers so they can open them easily and eat lunch by themselves. Self-management is a very important skill that your child learns at this time.

Your child's teacher may encourage you to join in at the start of each day. This is a great way to settle your child into the routine as well as to see your child's work and talk about what they do during the day.

WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN?

In a carefully planned learning environment, your child experiences many different learning activities.

These include cutting, painting, gluing, drawing, dressing up, sand play, climbing, storytelling, singing, dancing, exploring and social activities such as making new friends.

The social and emotional development of your child is a very important part of planned learning. Their teacher plans activities and encourages them to be involved so they become successful learners, team players, good problem solvers and creative thinkers who enjoy challenges.

YOUR CHILD WILL DEVELOP STRONG LITERACY SKILLS BY HAVING BOOKS READ TO THEM, BY SHARING STORIES AND BY LEARNING SONGS AND RHYMES. THEY WILL LEARN TO IDENTIFY WORDS AND SYLLABLES, AND DESCRIBE OBJECTS, TELL STORIES AND RECOGNISE PRINT SUCH AS THEIR WRITTEN NAME. THESE SKILLS WILL HELP WITH READING AND WRITING IN THE FUTURE.

Another focus in Kindergarten is on language and literacy. Your child develops an early understanding of letters, sounds and rhyming words; as well as how pictures can tell stories, how written words can be read, and how spoken sounds can be written down.

Learning about maths and numeracy is also a key part of Kindergarten. Your child learns

about numbers and shapes, counting, measuring and the many different ways maths is used in our daily lives.

Teachers take into account children's experiences and backgrounds to make sure learning programs are targeted to meet their individual needs.

IN KINDERGARTEN...

Writing

Your child becomes aware that spoken words can be written down. Their writing may show randomly placed letters or scribbles that look similar to what they see as writing. Encourage all their efforts!

Sounds

Your child starts to identify sounds in words, especially the first sound in a word. They may then identify the last sound in a word. Your child also begins to recognise some letters and words, such as signs and names of shops, and learn sound-letter connections.

Measurement

Your child develops and uses the language of measurement such as: tall, short, heavy and light. They use the everyday language of time such as: quick, slow and fast, and are able to use terms such as: before, after and next to discuss the timing of familiar events.

Sorting

Your child begins to sort objects by size, shape and colour, and group similar kinds of toys together such as cars and blocks.

Numbers

Your child begins to play games that help them learn about numbers and join in with stories and songs that encourage counting.

Reading

Your child becomes interested in books and the pictures and words in them. Reading stories, saying and singing nursery rhymes, poems and songs, and making up actions are all part of Kindergarten.

Shapes

Your child learns about shapes and sizes by comparing and building.

Time

Your child may remember simple sequences and follow steps in their daily routine.

IN KINDERGARTEN, YOUR CHILD LEARNS SOCIAL SKILLS BY PLAYING AND SHARING WITH OTHER CHILDREN. PLAY ALLOWS THEM TO SHARE, TAKE TURNS AND DEVELOP THEIR CONFIDENCE AND COORDINATION.

GOING TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY REALLY MATTERS

At school, your child's teacher plans programs and activities that build on previously learned skills.

Developing the habit of going to school regularly from Kindergarten is vital so your child does not miss out on important ideas and skills they need for future learning.

You can help by:

- talking positively about school so your child is happy to go each day
- showing interest in what your child is doing at school and talking with the teacher about what you can do at home
- setting play dates to help your child make friends
- teaching your child how to share and take turns
- arriving at school and collecting your child from school on time

- making sure your child gets nutritious meals each day and enough sleep each night
- making appointments with doctors, dentists and specialists after school or during the school holidays
- taking family holidays during the school holidays and not during term time.

If your child is unwell and unable to go to school, telephone or text the school to let the teacher know. If your child misses a day, talk with the teacher to find out how you can help your child catch up. If you are having difficulty getting your child to school, talk with the teacher.

TAKING AN INTEREST IN WHAT YOUR CHILD DOES AT SCHOOL, HELPING IN CLASS AND BEING PART OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY SHOW YOUR CHILD HOW MUCH YOU VALUE SCHOOL.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

- Read books aloud, point to pictures and talk with your child about the story.
- Draw and write with your child and talk about what you are doing.
- Encourage your child to use trial and error to learn and complete tasks. Be patient and let them have a go.
- Your child begins to hear and see how numbers are used at home and begins to match number names to very small groups of objects just by looking. You can help by talking through what you are doing. For example: We need four plates, so if I get two plates and then get two more, we'll have four plates.
- A great way to help with maths skills is through everyday activities – at bath time, when playing outside and while

cooking together. Counting with your child using items they can see and touch, measuring items and comparing items help them hear and use maths ideas.

- At this age your child also learns about measurement by using everyday words like: full and empty, big and small, tall and short, and heavy and light. Using words to describe position such as: in, on and under, and talking about whether something is near, far and upside down, help your child learn about location.
- Number songs and rhymes help your child learn about counting. Spend time together singing songs like: One, two, three, four, five, once I caught a fish alive and One, two, buckle my shoe. Number books that you read together and talk about are also great ways for your child to learn early ideas.

WHEN ENROLLING IN SCHOOL, MAKE SURE YOU MENTION IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY ALLERGIES OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS. IF YOUR CHILD HAS PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS CHECK WITH THE SCHOOL TO SEE WHAT PLANS IT HAS IN PLACE FOR THIS. IT IS ALSO HELPFUL FOR THE TEACHER TO KNOW IF YOUR CHILD IS SEEING A SPECIALIST.

MORE IDEAS FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

Talk with your child

At school your child learns about the importance of communication. You can help by talking with your child about the things they do at school. Ask them to explain or describe things that happened during the day. Ask questions to draw out more information if they can't think of anything. Ask 'open' questions so your child answers with more than 'yes' or 'no'. For example: What was your favourite thing you did at Kindergarten today? rather than Did you have fun at Kindergarten today? Be sure to talk about your day too!

Speak with the teacher

Have regular contact with your child's teacher. Your school has a variety of ways for you to do this. If you want to speak with your child's teacher without interruption, it's best to make an appointment.

Contribute to the class

Your child's teacher may request help with listening to children read, helping children with their writing and artwork, as well as assisting with sporting activities, excursions and special events. You may also want to get involved in the school's parents and citizens' (P&C) association or volunteer at the school canteen. Teachers often need items for art, craft, maths and science such as buttons, material scraps, sea shells, plastic containers and bottles – the list is endless! Check with the teacher about what items they need.

Read together

Children love being read to. The time you spend reading together helps your child develop a love of books and words. The earlier you start, the better – your child is more prepared for school if they are familiar with language and the many ways it is used. Your local library is a treasure trove of books and reading materials – let your child pick out those that interest them.



