



RYDALMERE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL PRESCHOOL INFORMATION HANDBOOK 2025

*Inspiring lifelong learners through a
nurturing and innovative environment*



WELCOME TO RYDALMERE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL PRESCHOOL

School Address

41 Spurway Street
Ermington 2115
Telephone
9638 2250

Email: rydalmeree-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



Principal

Mrs Jennifer Scuglia

Teacher

Ms Margaret Moro

Learning Support Officer

Mrs Carmen Narain



Class Attendance

Preschool 1 Class:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

(NSW Department of Education Semester 1 – Terms 1 and 2)

Monday and Tuesday

(NSW Department of Education Semester 2 -Terms 3 and 4)

Preschool 2 Class:

Thursday and Friday

(NSW Department of Education Semester 1 – Terms 1 and 2)

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

(NSW Department of Education Semester 2 -Terms 3 and 4)

Hours

Classes commence at 8.55 am and conclude at 2:55pm daily

Rydalmere East Public School Preschool Philosophy

At Rydalmere East Public School Preschool, our philosophy guides our every day practices with the belief that, all children are individual, unique and capable learners, who come to preschool with their own set of beliefs, experiences and cultural backgrounds. Our aim is to provide a learning environment that is warm, nurturing, safe and respectful of each child's abilities and one that encourages children to develop a high level of self-confidence and reach their full potential.



In relation to Children

We believe children are active participants in their learning and are encouraged to explore their environment that promotes creativity and discovery. We believe it is important for children to build strong and positive relationships with children and educators. As children feel confident in their environment, they will feel supported to take risks and meet challenges. We encourage children to be effective communicators and be connected and contribute to outcomes in their learning. We provide opportunities for the children to engage with their natural world in order for them to develop an appreciation and respect for their surroundings. As educators we convey meaningful messages to the children both in practice and attitude about sustainability.

In relation to the Curriculum

Our curriculum is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework. It reflects an ongoing cycle which is directed by the children's strengths, interests and ideas. Our aim is to provide high quality learning and teaching through open ended play based experiences. Our planning is a combination of intentional and spontaneous experiences, responding to children's abilities and interests. Educators reflect on children's interest and development of the children when planning the curriculum, which facilitates and enhances the learning process. Children have opportunities to engage with technology and digital media in classrooms, to promote investigation and gather information.

In relation to Families and the Community

We respect all families as the first educators of their children and work together to build trusting relationships which encourage family involvement in the preschool. We believe it is important to engender a sense of belonging for all children, families and visitors within our preschool. We encourage family input in the curriculum, as this collaboration allows educators to use family knowledge to enhance their own learning about the children. Educators reflect on their curriculum to enrich the program and ensure it is inclusive and responsive to all children and their families. We value the knowledge and contribution of our wider community and incorporate them into our curriculum through our excursions, incursions, family participation and social events. We believe it emphasizes children's learning to participate fully and actively in society, gaining a sense of belonging.



In relation to Educators

Educators' teaching philosophies and background are supported and reflected in the learning program at preschool. Educators maintain open and respectful communication with each other both verbally and written. Educators continually strive for high quality teaching and learning not only for the children, but also for themselves professionally. We reflect on our pedagogy and our practice to assist in guiding our teaching and future curriculum planning.

Rydalmere East Public School Preschool

Rydalmere East Public School Preschool is a sessional preschool providing educational care for children in their early years.

Preschools in government schools operated by the Department of Education provide educational programs to children one year before starting school and are an integral part of the school in which they are located.

Departmental preschools aim to ensure that “all children experience learning that is engaging and builds success for life” (Early Years Learning Framework)

Our centre has been awarded a certificate of excellence by KindiCare. The KindiCare Excellence Award recognizes us as one of less than 10% of early childhood education and care services that have received a 9.0 or higher and is based on both community feedback and our centre’s performance under the National Quality Framework from ACECQA.



License and Rating

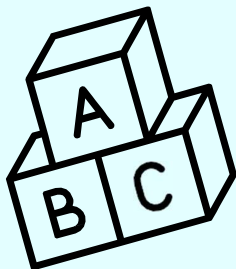
Our preschool is licensed to care for a maximum of twenty children, between 8:55am and 2:55am daily, with a ratio of one adult for each ten children.

Approved Provider: NSW Department of Education PR-00005345

Service approval number: SE-00008903

Our preschool complies with the Education and Care Services National Regulations (current version 1st October 2023).

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2011-0653>



Management of our service

Our service is operated by the Department of Education and is part of a Preschool - Year Six Public School.

Our school principal assumes the roles of:

Nominated Supervisor
Educational Leader
Responsible person in charge



Our preschool teacher is responsible for the daily care and education of the preschool children.

The Preschool Program

At Rydalmere East preschool we are focused on providing a flexible, play based program which is guided by our philosophy and the Early Learning Years Framework.

It acknowledges the uniqueness of each individual child and provides all children opportunities to develop at their own pace according to their individual interests, strengths, needs and background.



Early Years Learning Framework

"The Early Years Learning Framework is the early childhood curriculum, which we use as a guide in developing quality, early childhood education programs. The framework describes the principles, practice and outcomes to support and enhance young children's learning from birth to five years, as well as their transition to school".

Belonging

Experiencing belonging – knowing where and with whom you belong – is integral to human existence. Children belong to diverse families, neighbourhoods, local and global communities. Belonging acknowledges children's interdependence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identities. In early childhood, and throughout life, trusting relationships and affirming experiences are crucial to a sense of belonging. Belonging is central to being and becoming in that it shapes who children are and who they can become. (EYLF, pg 6, 2022)

Being

Childhood is a time to be, to seek and make meaning of the world. Being recognises the significance of the present, as well as the past in children's lives. It is about children knowing themselves, developing their identity, building and maintaining relationships with others, engaging with life's joys and complexities, and meeting challenges in everyday life. The early childhood years are not solely preparation for the future but also about children being in the here and now. (EYLF, pg 6, 2022)

Becoming

Children's identities, knowledge, understandings, dispositions, capabilities, skills and relationships change during childhood. They are shaped by different events and circumstances. Becoming reflects this process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as children learn and grow. It emphasises the collaboration of educators, families and children to support and enhance children's connections and capabilities, and for children to actively participate as citizens. (EYLF, pg 6, 2022)

The Framework conveys the highest expectations for all children's learning, development and wellbeing from birth to 5 years and through the transitions to school. It communicates these expectations through the following 5 Learning Outcomes:

- 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





Educational Approaches

Learning takes place in a variety of situations - solitary, one-to-one, small groups and large groups in indoor and outdoor environments. The education program will be based on the needs of individual children and aims to develop social, emotional and cognitive abilities and enhance language, creative and physical development. Experiences and activities are sequenced in order to build upon and extend skills and understandings.

A variety of educational approaches is used to promote learning:

child initiated activities guided by the teacher

teacher initiated and guided activities

free play and free discovery

child initiated and controlled activities



Preschool Routine

The preschool routine is flexible depending on the weather, special events or interests of the children. Our routine is:

- Indoor/outdoor play
- Morning tea
- Large group experience (Language)
- Indoor/outdoor play
- Lunch
- Rest/quiet activities
- Indoor play/outdoor play
- Large group experience (music)
- Home



What to bring each day

Each child will need to bring a bag large enough to contain the following.

A lunchbox or 2 lunch boxes containing morning tea and lunch

A complete change of clothes including underwear and socks

A drink bottle with water

A small pillow for rest time

A bucket hat



Optional items

Cot sheets and small blanket if your child requires a sleep

Rain boots for sand and mud play (these can remain at school)

Please label all of your child's belongings

Munch and Move Program

Munch & Move offers early childhood services a great opportunity to encourage children's healthy eating and physical activity using a range of fun, play-based learning experiences.

We support the Munch and Move program and encourage you to pack:

A piece of fruit or vegetable for morning tea

Sandwiches/ wraps or other healthy alternative for lunch

We ask that you send only healthy food to preschool and avoid cake, chips, chocolate or other foods with high a sugar content. Ideas for healthy lunches can be found at www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au.

Please send water in a drink bottle for the children to maintain adequate fluid levels throughout their active day.

PLEASE PUT A SMALL ICE PACK IN YOUR CHILD'S LUNCH BOX.

How you can contribute to your child's Preschool

1. Donate a box of tissues, hand soap and baby wipes to your child's class at the beginning of the year.
2. Support fundraising and working bees.
3. Attend special events.
4. Share your expertise with the children e.g., cooking, gardening, singing



Attendance

Children must be brought to the preschool classroom and collected by an adult over 18 years of age. Children must not be left unattended by their parent or carer until the doors are opened by the staff at 8:55 am. All children must be signed in and out on the attendance sheets. Please notify the school via email rydalmereep.school@det.nsw.edu.au if a person other than yourself is going to collect your child. Our operating license is 8:55am to 2:55 pm. It is essential that your child is collected by 2:55pm each day of attendance.

Accidents

Where a serious accident occurs the child's parents will be advised as soon as possible, and an ambulance called if necessary. Minor accidents, resulting in injuries such as cuts, grazes and bruises, will be managed by our educators.

Allergies

If your child has an allergy or is at risk for anaphylaxis, you must inform the preschool and fill out the necessary paperwork PRIOR to your child commencing preschool. The preschool MUST BE PROVIDED WITH AN ACTION PLAN FROM YOUR DOCTOR.

Asthma

The preschool MUST BE PROVIDED WITH AN ASTHMA PLAN FROM YOUR CHILDS DOCTOR and you need to complete the necessary paperwork PRIOR to your child commencing preschool.



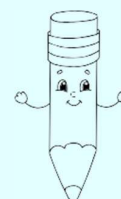
Car Park

Please do not park in the school car park at any time. It is not safe for the children and can cause major problems for emergency vehicles, assisted transport for our Inclusive Classes and the people who have to make urgent deliveries to the school. Please do not walk through the car park. Use the path around the car park at all times to set a safe example to your child.

Child Protection

If you, as a member of the public, have concerns about a child's welfare you should call the Child Protection Hotline on 132111. More information is available online;

<http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/home>. All our school staff are mandatory reporters, this means we are legally obliged to report any child abuse we suspect. We will do this through our school principal and the Department's Child Wellbeing Unit.





Clothing

Please send children in clothing suitable for messy play. Remember that a lot of their play will be active. They will need clothing which enables them to run, climb, ride and possibly remove layers if they are hot. It is also important that children have correctly fitted and supportive shoes for running and climbing in the outdoor area - no Crocs, thongs or slip-on shoes please! Ensure that your child can put on his/her shoes and fasten them - velcro is ideal.



Communication

Parents and guardians are welcome to discuss their child's progress with the teacher. Messages may be communicated to you through newsletters, notes or School eNews.

Contact Details and Addresses

It is important that contact numbers, email and addresses we have for your child are up to date should we need to contact you in case of an emergency.

Illness

The Preschool cannot cater for children who are sick, so please keep sick children at home until they have fully recovered. Please notify the Preschool via the school office though email, rydalmeree-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au of your child's illness or the reason for their absence. The Preschool follows the same quarantine period for contagious diseases as advised by the Department of Health. In the event of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease in a School, Preschool or Child Care Centre, children who are not immunised will be required to remain at home for the duration of the outbreak for their own protection. Should your child have diarrhoea or vomiting in the previous 48 hours please keep him/her at home. After a fever, a child's temperature must be normal for 24 hours before returning to preschool.

When children become ill at Preschool their parents will be called to collect the child. If there is no answer the emergency contact will be called to collect the child.

Please phone the school office to let them know if your child is expected to be absent for more than a couple of days.



Fees

Fees for 2025 have been waived by the Department of Education.

Immunisation

All children enrolling at Preschool will be required to provide the school with an up to date immunisation statement from Medicare. Once your child has had their 4 year old immunisations, you will required to provide an updated copy to our school office.

Parent/Family Involvement

We have an open door policy. All parents are welcome throughout the day to visit their child and to assist in experiences. We encourage families to share their culture and family traditions through our preschool program. Parent helpers are required to complete our code of conduct and declaration form prior to organising a visit to our preschool.



Rest/Quiet Activities

Each child's comfort is provided for and there are appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation. Children will be given the opportunity to read a book, complete puzzles, and listen to soft music, read stories or other quiet activities. Children are required to bring their own small pillow to rest their head. We do not enforce a scheduled sleep time; beds are available and adjustments can be made for children needing to sleep during the year.

Sun Protection

All children will be required to wear a protective hat whenever they are outdoors. You may wish to apply sunscreen to your child before leaving home. All children will need to bring a bucket hat in their bag each day.

In the interests of sun safety, please ensure that your child wears clothes with sleeves (long or short) and avoid tank tops, singlets, shoestring straps, halter necks etc.



Transition to Preschool

Different children will feel and react differently to starting Preschool. For the first few weeks, be prepared to stay and play with your child for a short time, as they may need your presence to settle them into an activity and as a reassurance that Preschool is a safe and enjoyable place.

Always say 'goodbye' and let your child know that you're leaving but will be back soon. If your child becomes upset as you're about to leave, please feel free to call one of our staff over to comfort your child as you go. Parents are welcome to phone us during the day to check that their child has settled.



We hope you and your family have an enjoyable experience at Rydalmere East Public School Preschool.