



Beeliar
PRIMARY SCHOOL

2021

Parent Information Booklet

Kindergarten



GOLDEN RULE

TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED

This booklet contains information that will help parents and students make the transition from home to Kindergarten.

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Welcome parents and children to Kindergarten at Beeliar Primary School. We anticipate this will be a happy and rewarding beginning for you and your child in your association with our school. We look forward to establishing partnerships with parents/carers so that together we can teach and guide our young children.

THE TEACHING AND LEARNING PROGRAM

In Kindergarten the teachers' planning is informed by the West Australian Kindergarten Guidelines and the Early Years Learning Framework. These documents describe what children will know, understand, value and be able to do as a result of their learning.

The Early Years Learning Framework - **play** as a medium for learning

The Early Years Learning Framework is a national framework for all early childhood educators ensuring that children in all early childhood education and care settings experience quality teaching and learning. The Early Years Framework (EYLF) describes childhood as a time of **belonging, being and becoming**.



- **Belonging-** Acknowledging children's interdependence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identities. Belonging shapes who children are and who they become.
- **Being-** Recognising the here and now in children's lives. The early childhood years are not solely preparation for the future but also about the present.
- **Becoming-** Reflects the process of change in children's identities, knowledge, understandings, capabilities, skills and relationships.

The EYLF has a specific emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development.

Purposeful play is a powerful medium for learning and helps children make sense of their world. Play is an important part of your child's first years of life because it helps the 'wiring' of your child's brain. Children need opportunities to choose from a wide variety of activities, materials and equipment that will stimulate, challenge and involve them in interesting tasks. The modelling and explicit teaching of social skills will help develop the children's self-awareness and self-control.

The main aim of our program is to make your child's first contact with school a happy and satisfying experience, which will help to establish positive attitudes to learning. We aim to encourage the development of your child's confidence, concentration and social skills, to foster their imagination and creativity, and help build their self-esteem. By providing a rich variety of experiences, we feel the Kindergarten year will help to form the building blocks on which to build your child's formal learning.

The Kindergarten program revolves around learning centres so that the children are able to make choices about where they will play. When children play they are showing what they have learned and what they are trying to understand. This is why play is one of the foundations of the Early Years Framework.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AS THEY TRANSITION INTO KINDERGARTEN:

- Talk about starting school in a positive way; build the excitement!
- Acquaint your child with their written name so they can identify their name tags on lockers, name boards and belongings
- Read all information given to you by the school, particularly paying attention to the days your child attends Kindergarten and the start and finish dates of each term
- Encourage your child to go to the toilet and wash their hands independently
- Promote good sleeping habits
- Support your child in ensuring that they can remove their own clothing and dress themselves, including shoes (with the exception of laces/ buckles)
- Practise opening and closing their lunch boxes, removing lids/twisting tops off and opening cling wrapped items
- Model and encourage active listening and turn taking
- Arrange a visit to the Early Childhood block prior to commencing school

Literacy

At Beeliar we implement a strong oral language and comprehension program for all children. The children will be exposed to all phases of Phonological Awareness (PA) including syllable awareness, rhyme recognition and initial sounds through the Pre-Lit program. Research clearly shows that the two most important pre-requisite skills for learning to read are, phonological awareness and well-developed general knowledge. Children will be engaged in games and play based routines that teach systematically the skills of PA so that they are able to break up words into their component sounds and to manipulate sounds in words. Children will also be encouraged to engage with the stories being read, to answer questions about the stories and to relate the events in the stories to their own lives. This will assist in the development of good oral language skills more generally and will include explicit vocabulary instruction. Children possessing these skills at the commencement of formal schooling are more likely to learn to read with ease. It is also very important that parents read to their child (children) every day in order for them to develop an interest in reading. Each year, at the end of first term, all Kindergarten children will be assessed using the Early Years Pre-Literacy Screening tool from PLD Organisation. Early intervention, which includes referrals for speech, can then take place for those children who display some difficulties with their oral language development, comprehension and communication skills.

Numeracy

Mathematical understanding in early childhood is integral to developing proficiency in numeracy. We teach the numerical concepts that are required for everyday life. We do this by providing opportunities for children to reinforce their mathematical learning in practical, everyday situations during play, as well as in more formal learning experiences. Throughout the Kindergarten year, your children will be exposed to aspects of numbers, measurement and shape.



Social Skills

An important area of focus in Kindergarten is the development of the children's social skills. Skills, such as negotiating, considering the needs of others and problem solving will develop throughout their school life. Kindergarten is often your child's first experience as part of a large group of children of a similar age, so learning to self-regulate and manage their own behaviour and emotions is also an important skill to develop.

THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

At Beeliar, we know that learning occurs both inside and outside of the classroom. The children become actively involved in planned and incidental learning to assist with their mental, physical and social/emotional development. The indoor and outdoor learning environments are organised and planned to engage children, making use of the natural and built environments. Activities promote independence and social interaction through structured tasks and intentional play opportunities.

STAND TALL

At Beeliar, we embrace the Stand Tall philosophy throughout the whole school. In Kindergarten the children will be exposed to the Stand Tall message and the Golden Rule, "Treat others as you would like to be treated." We use this terminology when guiding appropriate behaviour with the 1, 2, 3 Stand Tall behaviour management procedure, that has been based on the highly regarded and successful "1, 2, 3 Magic" program. More information on this can be found on our website beeliar.ps.wa.edu.au

REPORTING TO PARENTS

At the end of each semester, parents/carers will receive an online Education Department Kindergarten report. This report covers the five learning development areas which are:

- Identity
- Connecting and contributing
- Wellbeing
- Learning and thinking
- Communicating

Each child will also take home a Kindergarten keepsake/work sample book displaying a selection of their work to demonstrate growth and development over the semester.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see the teacher if you wish to discuss any matters concerning your child's progress, the program content or any other general queries or concerns. Interviews with the classroom teacher, as your first port of call, are particularly useful if you have a specific concern or if you would like to make the teacher aware of your child's specific needs or home situation. Should you wish to discuss matters further, then an appointment can be made with a member of the administration team to assist you with your concerns.

It is very important that parents advise the teacher of any changes in the home situation that may cause undue stress or behaviour that is not usual for a child so that we are able to take it into consideration on any given day. Please remember to update your child's admission card with new telephone numbers, addresses and/or emergency contact people as soon as there are any changes.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION APP – CONNECT

Beeliar Primary School uses the Department of Education preferred communication portal, Connect. Connect is used to notify parents/carers of information happening at the school by pushing notifications to you in a discrete way to your smart devices. Parents/carers are able to log in using a Parent Number (PNumber) and Password, this will be sent to you via email once your child commences. This is our preferred method of communication. For more information, please contact the front office on 6174 1400 or refer to the school website <http://beeliarps.wa.edu.au/tiqbiz-school-communication-app/>

ABSENCES AND LATE TO SCHOOL

To comply with the Education Act (1999), a written explanation is required for each and every absence from school. As part of the school's legal responsibilities, notes are kept on file by classroom teachers. It would be appreciated if parents would notify the school in advance of foreseeable extended absences from school. You can also advise the school of absences, appointments etc. via our text message system Message You. Please SMS your child's name and reason for absence to 0488 908 576.

When an absence is due to long term sickness, parents may wish to contact their child's teacher to discuss activities that could be completed at home.

Students who are late to school are required to report to the office where they receive a late pass. Their lateness is recorded to monitor the frequency with which this occurs, and if necessary, to raise the issue with parents. A note should be provided to explain the reason for a student's lateness.

ATTENDANCE AT KINDERGARTEN: EVERY DAY COUNTS

From Week One onwards, children will be in attendance for the full five days per fortnight. It is important to remember that each day counts in Kindergarten. The expectation is that once enrolled, children will attend on a regular basis. The learning program builds upon the previous day's learning. If a child misses one day in each fortnight they are in a sense missing out on 20% of their school year. Please contact your teacher to discuss any interruptions to your child's attendance.

TIMETABLE

Group A children will attend on Mondays and Thursdays and ON Wednesdays in each odd week i.e. weeks 1,3,5,7,9, (and 11 if the term calendar runs to 11 weeks). Group B will attend on Tuesdays and Fridays and ON Wednesdays in each odd week. Kindergarten children in the K/PP class will attend on Tuesday and Thursday and will also attend on Fridays in each odd week as above. Please note that school holiday breaks are not included in this alternate week scenario. The school operates on the Department of Education term dates.

TRANSITION INTO THE PLAYGROUND

Kindergarten children go through a transition phase when introduced to the outdoor play area and when joining in with the Pre-primary children. For ***the first few weeks*** of school the Kindergarten children enjoy the outdoor environment under the supervision of their classroom teacher and education assistant at a time other than the designated school recess and lunch times. The remaining weeks in Term 1 the classroom teacher and/or the education assistant will be on duty with the Kindergarten children as they mix with the pre-primary children at recess and/or lunch time. From Term 2 onward and for the remainder of the year, the Kindergarten children will come under the care of the duty teachers at the designated school recess and lunch times. **Shoes off** The children will be able to take their shoes off, particularly for outdoor play, in Term 1 and Term 4. This will assist them in using all the obstacle course and play equipment that is set up on a daily basis.

WHAT TO BRING TO KINDERGARTEN (please label everything!)

Things do get left behind from time to time so if items are clearly named then they can be returned to their rightful owner.

- A child's backpack, one that they can manage (large if possible).



- **A hat that will remain at school** (One school hat is provided to Kindergarten children by the P&C Association and this will stay at school. Additional hats are available from the uniform shop.) The school policy is “NO hat - NO play” therefore children without hats will only be permitted to play in the shaded sandpit. Please put sunscreen on your child before they come to school.
- Morning tea: One piece of fruit or vegetables.
- Lunch: Please provide a healthy, nutritious lunch in an easy to open lunch box. (For great ideas for healthy and interesting school lunches, visit: [det.wa.edu.au/healthy food and drink](http://det.wa.edu.au/healthy%20food%20and%20drink))
- A named water bottle (water only, no cordial or milk)
- A change of clothes in case of accidents/messy play.

CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND SAFETY

Staffing arrangements

Staffing arrangements enhance children’s learning and development and ensure their safety and well-being. Staff-to-child ratios and qualification requirements are maintained at all times. Each Kindergarten group caters for 20 children with a teacher and an Education Assistant both qualified to teach in the early years.

Illness and Allergies

Please read the school booklet regarding illnesses and exclusions. We have limited facilities for treating illnesses at school. If your child has a temperature, has vomited and/or has diarrhoea, please keep them at home. All allergies and medical conditions must be noted on the Student Health Care Summary form, and the school office staff and teacher must be informed so that a medical plan can be implemented if required. Should your child become ill at school we will contact the parents or emergency contact person. Please ensure your contact details remain current as it is extremely distressing for your child if we cannot contact the family.

Custody arrangements

To assist us in meeting our duty of care responsibilities, please let the school administrators and teachers know of any special custody arrangements that involve your child.

Confidential Declaration form

The Department of Education has advised schools that all visitors and volunteers to schools must sign a Confidential Declaration Form prior to working in the classroom with the children. You will be required to sign in at the front office each day that you are volunteering in a classroom.

Dropping off and collecting children

The Department of Education outlines that no child shall arrive at, or leave, a Kindergarten unaccompanied by a parent or guardian. If this is not possible, a nominated adult can pick up the child. Children will not be released at pick up time until an authorised adult is seen by staff. A permission slip must be filled out if someone other than yourself is to pick up your child.

Parents are asked to **please be punctual** when dropping off and collecting your child as this helps them develop a sense of time and security. Punctuality in the morning gets the day started with their peers, however if you are late to school for any reason please go to the front office and receive a late pass, in line with whole school attendance policy. At home time a few minutes waiting can seem like a long time for a four-year old.

Morning tea and lunch

Morning tea and lunch times are great opportunities for children to sit and chat quietly with a small group of friends. Fruit and vegetables are appropriate for morning tea. There is no sharing of any food. When children bring lunch, we recommend a sandwich, bread roll, or similar, with suitable filling and one or two healthy snacks such as a small yoghurt, fresh fruit, cheese or plain muesli bar. Water is available at all times so please do not include juice or milk drinks with your child's lunch. In accordance with Health Department guidelines we do not encourage lollies, chocolates, chips, chocolate coated muesli bars or the like as healthy snacks for lunch.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



Parent involvement

Parent involvement provides continuity for your child between home and the Kindergarten. Parents are encouraged to participate and assist in the Kindergarten in whatever capacity they can. A roster for parent volunteers will be displayed on the noticeboard outside each Kindergarten room from Term 2 onwards. Please write your name against a date that suits you. Your child will love you to be involved and, in this way, you can be a part of the learning experiences we provide in the Kindergarten.

Parent Contributions

- Keep in touch with the teacher on matters concerning your child's health and well-being.
- Notify the teacher of any changes to the normal routine within the home situation. Such changes can affect your child's behaviour, attitude and emotional well-being at school.
- Notify the school office staff and teachers of any changes of address and/or telephone number, should this occur.
- Participate and assist in class through parent volunteer roster.
- Participate in busy-bees, working bees, and other whole school activities.
- Consider joining the school P & C or School Board as the Kindergarten program benefits from their activities.
- Volunteering in the school canteen.



Student Booklist, contributions and charges

A book list indicating items for them to use in kindergarten is in your enrolment pack. It would be appreciated if these could be provided as outlined in the list.

The school also asks for a voluntary contribution which is allocated directly to the classrooms to support the teaching programs, providing materials and resources and cooking and craft supplies that enhance the learning opportunities for your child. An activity fee for excursions/incursions is also payable either as a one of up-front payment, or you can choose to pay as you go.

MISCELLANEOUS

Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays, name days or other special occasions in the Kindergarten. If you would like to send in small cupcakes for your child to share with his/her friends on (or near) their special day, we will have them at morning tea. Please let the teacher know beforehand. Candles and matches are provided at school.

Children's possessions

The Kindergarten has a variety of equipment, toys and games for the children to use each day. Children should not bring any toys or personal, precious items to school unless they have been requested for a particular reason. Parents please check with the teacher if you are unsure. Precious items from home can be accidentally damaged, broken or lost which can be very distressing to the child concerned.

Recycling list

If you have any valuable 'junk' you feel we might be able to use in the Kindergarten, please bring it in. Please ensure items are clean and dry. We do not use milk or juice cartons, or empty toilet rolls.



BEELIAR PRIMARY SCHOOL

86 The Grange

Beeliar WA 6164

Phone: 6174 1400

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

Website: beeliarps.wa.edu.au