

# ACACIA AVENUE PRESCHOOL

INFORMATION BOOKLET 2025



## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Acacia Avenue Preschool acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, and we pay our respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.



## ACACIA AVENUE PRESCHOOL'S COMMITMENT STATEMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

#### Acacia Avenue Preschool:

- is committed to the rights of all children to feel safe, and be safe at all times, including:
  - o promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children;
  - promoting the cultural safety of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
  - o promoting the safety of children with a disability; and
  - o providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe, feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.
- values, respects and cares for children;
- fosters opportunities for each child to participate, express their views and to learn and develop;
- always acts in the best interests of each child and has zero tolerance of child abuse;
- takes all reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of children at all times, whilst also promoting their learning and development;
- actively manages the risks of abuse or harm to each child, including fulfilling our duty of care and legal obligations to protect children and prevent any reasonable, foreseeable risk of injury or harm; and
- continuously improves the way our service identifies risks of and responds to child abuse, and encourages reporting and improved responses to allegations of abuse.

Every person involved in Acacia Avenue Preschool has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

Acacia Avenue Preschool is a Child Safe Organisation, and we implement all aspects of the 11 Standards.

Further information can be found at:

https://ccvp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/being-a-child-safe-organisation/

Please also refer to our Child Safe Environment and Wellbeing Policy.

Commencing Preschool is an important step and you as parents have a vital role to play in your child's education. We welcome your interaction and support and hope that the information contained in this booklet will assist you in taking an active role in your child's Preschool experience.

## Important information

## **Term Dates**

**Enrolment Week** Further information is in your enrolment pack

Educators set up day – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Red Group – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January Blue Group – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January Green Group – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January

Educators' administration day – Monday 3rd February

## Our settling in sessions will commence on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February Settling in sessions

## Red Group

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 8.30am – 1.30pm Wednesday 5th February 8.30am – 1.30pm

## **Green Group**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 9.30am – 12.30pm Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 9.30am – 12.30pm

## **Blue Group**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 8.30am – 1.30pm Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 8.30am – 1.30pm

Full sessions will commence on the week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Please see enrolment packs for more information.

#### 2025 Term Dates

Term 1	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January - Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April
Term 2	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April - Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July
Term 3	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July - Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September
Term 4	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October - Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December

## **Public Holidays and Child Free Days 2025**

**Term 1** Monday 24th February – Staff First Aid / Child Protection Training (Child Free Day – Preschool closed)

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Labour Day (*Public holiday – Preschool closed*)

**Term 2** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Anzac Day

(Public holiday – Preschool closed)

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June – King's Birthday (*Public holiday – Preschool closed*)

**Term 4** Tuesday 4th November – Melbourne Cup Day

(Public holiday – Preschool closed)

Final sessions for the year including end of Year Celebrations

Red Group – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec Green Group - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec Blue Group - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Pack up day for All Educators

## **OUR STAFF**

## 4-Year-Old Kindergarten Program Red & Blue Group

**Teachers** Yolande Moulton

Lalin Cheam

**Educators** Sam Payet

Jodie McCoy Vidooshi Jorry Debbie Mahoney Leanne Wilkinson

Sien Choi

3-Year-Old Kindergarten Program

**Green Group** 

**Teacher** Yolande Moulton

Activity Group Leader Emma Toniolo

**Educators** Debbie Mahoney

Jodie McCoy

Music Teacher (Red & Blue Group)

Vicki Dezso

#### PROGRAMMES OFFERED

The service model at Acacia Avenue caters to both 3-year-old and 4-year-old age cohorts. There are currently two 4-year-old groups (Red & Blue) and one 3-year-old group (Green).

## 3-Year-Old Kindergarten Program

Acacia Avenue Preschool offers one 3-year-old kindergarten group (Green Group), with a class size of 25 children. The Green Group will have three 5-hour sessions per week.

Children are eligible to attend the three-year-old kindergarten program at Acacia Avenue Preschool if they turn 3 prior to **April 30** in the year they start kindergarten.

It is important to note that children are not permitted to attend the three-year-old program until they have turned three years of age.

The Victorian State Government has a policy of providing one year of funded 3-year-old kindergarten per child. Therefore, if your child is born prior to 30 April, it is very important that you give this very careful consideration in which year your child starts kindergarten. You may like to discuss this further with the Educational Leader of the Preschool. Please see our website for more information about when to enrol your 3-year-old.

## 4-Year-Old Kindergarten Program

Our 4-year-old kindergarten groups class size consists of up to 27 children. Each group attends the Preschool for a total of 15 hours. Please see timetable below.

Children must turn 4 years old on, or before **April 30** in the year they attend our 4-year-old kindergarten program.

The Victorian State Government has a policy of providing one year of funded 4-year-old kindergarten per child. Therefore, it is very important that you give this very careful consideration. You may like to discuss this further with the Educational Leader of the Preschool. A second year of 4-year-old kindergarten will only be considered when a child shows delays in key areas of learning and development.

#### **Central enrolments**

Registrations, as well as group allocations for our 4-Year-Old Kindergarten programs are managed by the City of Kingston's Central Enrolment System. Enrolment applications cannot be accepted by the Preschool. You can enrol your child from the 1<sup>st</sup> May the year before their commencement.

The City of Kingston Central Enrolment page can be found at: <a href="https://www.kingston.vic.gov.au/Services/Family-and-Children/Early-Years-Education-and-Care-Options/Three-Four-Year-Old-Kindergarten">https://www.kingston.vic.gov.au/Services/Family-and-Children/Early-Years-Education-and-Care-Options/Three-Four-Year-Old-Kindergarten</a>

For further information please see the Enrolment and Orientation Policy in the foyer or on our website. Attending the 3-Year-Old kindergarten program at our Preschool does NOT automatically enrol your child into the 4-Year-Old kindergarten program at our Preschool. It is important that you apply through the City of Kingston (as above).

#### OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Acacia Avenue Preschool follows the guidelines of the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF), which is closely linked, to the National Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

Children are encouraged to be independent, creative, confident, responsible, caring and considerate towards others, and to be active learners. Over the year, your child will develop many skills and mature generally.

The Kindergarten Program is very much child-centred, developmentally appropriate and based largely on "learning through play". Your child will be given lots of opportunities to interact with other children, participate in creative activities such as art, music, movement and enjoy enriching language experiences through stories, poetry and group discussions.

Planning the Kindergarten Program is customised each year, after observing the children as individuals and as a group (every group is different, therefore the program may alter slightly each year, depending on the needs and interests of the group).

#### **Timetable**

Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	9.30am – 2.30pm	
	3-Year-Old Green Group	
Tuesday	8.30am – 4.00pm	
	4-Year-Old Red Group	
Wednesday	9.30am – 2.30pm	8.30am – 4.00pm
	3-Year-Old Green Group	4-Year-Old Red Group
Thursday	8.30am – 4.00pm	
	4-Year-Old Blue Group	
Friday	9.30am – 2.30pm	8.30am – 4.00pm
	3-Year-Old Green Group	4-Year-Old Blue Group

#### **Fees**

The Preschool has opted into the Victorian Government's free kindergarten scheme, therefore both 3-year-old and 4-year-old groups will be provided to all families without any out-of-pocket expenses.

## **Donations & Giving Tree**

Acacia Ave Preschool encourages families to donate to the kinder throughout the year. Fundraising and donations are vital to the effective implementation of our programs and day to day running of our kindergarten.

Why are donations and fundraising so imperative?

Acacia Ave Preschool is a not-for-profit organisation. Due to there being no fees, the only money that the kinder receives is the funding from the Department of Education and this only stretches so far. This Government funding primarily pays the wages of our Educators and covers just the basic day to day costs of the kinder. To add, although the City of Kingston own our building, it is our responsibility to maintain it. For instance, the gardening and cleaning are expenses that the kinder incur.

We offer each child extra curriculum activities (such as Music sessions for our 4-year-old groups), incursions, as well as individual hats and cups each year. To be able to continue to offer high quality programs, extra activities and supplies for each child we rely on the support and generosity of the families that use our service. Support can come in many forms, for example, donating your enrolment deposit, participating in the fundraising events offered throughout the year etc.

We also have a Giving Tree initiative at the kinder. The Giving Tree is located in the foyer area of the kinder. The tree is filled with tags that are labelled with various items the Preschool requires. This assists families in knowing what essential supplies, such as toilet paper, cleaning products, wipes, etc they can donate. Purchasing items suggested by the Giving Tree is a huge help to the Preschool and ensures Department funding can be utilised in more activities and equipment for the children.

We greatly appreciate and welcome all donations.

## No Jab, No Play

All parents/guardians planning to enrol their child at childcare or kindergarten in Victoria **must** provide the service with:

- 1. a current Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR); AND
- 2. the statement must show that the child is up to date with all vaccinations that are due for their age, or that they are able to receive.
- 3. This document must be provided before the child can commence at the Preschool.

## More information may be found at the following link:

https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/no-jab-no-play

## **Operation of the Preschool**

Acacia Avenue Preschool's buildings and surrounding grounds are owned and maintained by the City of Kingston.

The 3 and 4-Year-Old kindergarten programs are approved and subsidised by the Victorian Government through the Department of Education and Training (DET). The Preschool conforms to the standards laid down by that Department in regard to buildings, equipment and staff.

The Committee of Management (COM) is the decision-making body of the organisation and has the power and responsibility to ensure the proper management of the Preschool. This includes all aspects of finances, adhering to parliamentary Acts, employment of staff and adherence to the Constitution and Preschool Philosophy.

The COM plays an extremely important role in enabling staff to invest the maximum amount of time to the direct benefit of the children. Management of the Preschool is undertaken through formal policies. These **policies** are located in a folder next to the entrance door in the foyer or can be viewed on our website:

https://acaciaavepreschool.org.au/

Please familiarise yourself with these policies and use as a reference as required.

#### Communication

Communication between the Families and Educators is vital.

All Educators are there for you and your child. No issue is too big or too small. If you would like to make a time to talk to someone then please do not hesitate. Before and after sessions can be rushed so making an alternative time with an Educator is more beneficial. You can also text, email or call if that is easier. Keeping open communication can help us best understand your child and act appropriately to manage and support their needs as well as yours. Even though we have formal parent teacher chats mid-year, ongoing communication throughout the year is equally important.

Newsletters will be sent out twice a term via email. Notices will be emailed and or displayed on our communication board.

Educators will also send texts as a form of communication.

Email – acacia.ave.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Mobile - 0490 848 262

## **Class Dojo**

At the beginning of the year, you will be sent instructions for the use of our communication app, Class Dojo. You will also receive a code for your child. We encourage all parents to opt in as we use this to communicate about your child's learning journey. It includes photos, observations, reminders and upcoming events.

## Day to Day

The Preschool foyer will be open prior to the kindergarten session starting time. As we are a sessional Preschool, we do not provide extended hours of care before or after the sessions. Legally, the Educators are not allowed to be responsible for children before the session commencement time. Parents/guardians are asked to wait in the foyer or at the neighboring park with their child until the session begins.

Children will be dismissed from the mat at the end of the session into the care of an adult. Please wait until your child's name is called. This procedure is essential for the safety of your child.

## Signing In & Out

Children must be signed in and out in the Attendance Book. The name of the person who is collecting your child must be recorded. **Mum/Dad/Grandparent or self** is not sufficient, and the name must be clearly written. This is a regulatory requirement.

Written or verbal authorisation is required if your child is to be picked up by anyone other than those you have authorised on your child's enrolment form. Additional authorised persons can be added at any time.

## What to Bring

Please provide a bag/backpack for your child, for their belongings. Please keep the following items in your child's bag:

- 1. <u>Spare clothes</u> (seasonally appropriate), underwear, socks, pants or leggings & top. If your child is toilet training then please pack additional changes of clothes and pullups if needed.
- 2. A coat in Winter our playground is cold, and we do go outside whenever possible;
- 3. <u>Library bag</u> the Preschool borrowing library will operate from Term 2 for the 4-year-old groups. The children will make a library bag in Term 1;
- 4. Show & Share begins for 4-Year-Old Groups only in Term 3;
- 5. Food:
  - Green group one snack box and one lunch box (named).
  - Red Group (Tuesday & Wednesday) a snack box for morning tea, a lunch box for lunch time and a piece of fruit for afternoon tea (named).
  - Blue Group (Thursday & Friday) a snack box for morning tea, a lunch box for lunch time and a piece of fruit for afternoon tea (named).

The Preschool aims to promote healthy eating, please keep sometimes food for home. **No nuts** in food products brought into the Preschool environment. Please refer to the healthy eating page of this booklet for information about our food policy and food suggestions.

## What to Wear

Encourage your child to wear comfortable play clothes to Preschool. Protective smocks are provided, but your children will get dirty, so please provide clothes that you won't worry about, so that the children are free to play.

Dresses often make climbing difficult and hazardous. Long dresses are particularly awkward and limit a child's active participation in climbing activities outside. Shorts or leggings are a more practical option.

For safety reasons, thongs are not permitted. During warmer weather in accordance with our Sun Smart Policy children must wear clothes that cover their shoulders. Please refer to the Sun Smart flyer included in the pack.

As part of our fundraising events early in the year, the Preschool offers uniforms for purchase. Please be aware that uniforms are not mandatory. A uniform order form will be included in the Enrolment pack. Please make sure you take note of the due dates for the forms. No late orders for uniforms can be accepted.

#### Sun Hats

We encourage the wearing of sun hats at Preschool. To facilitate this, the Preschool provides a hat for each child. The hats are adjustable in their sizing, named and meet the SunSmart guidelines. The hat will remain at Preschool at the close of each session. Each child will retain their hat as a keepsake at the end of the year. These hats are covered by the kindergarten are at no additional cost to the families.

#### Sunscreen

Please apply sunscreen before your child comes to Preschool. It is provided at the entrance of the Preschool, however, must be applied by parent/guardian at the beginning of the session.

## **Children's Belongings**

Each child will have a locker for their bag and belongings. The children will clear these daily.

## **Procedures for Dealing with Illness**

If your child is unwell, they should not come to Preschool. Please do not leave this decision up to your child. If they have been unwell during the night, they will be tired and are better off staying at home.

In the event of your child becomes unwell at Preschool all efforts will be made to ensure your child's comfort. You or your emergency contact will be contacted via text or phone call and asked to take your child home as soon as possible.

While it is important for your child to attend Preschool, in order to safeguard all children and keep infections to a minimum throughout the year, we would ask that you keep your child at home if suffering from any of the following:

- cough or cold - eye infections - headlice

- Influenza - cold sores - infectious diseases

sore throat
 infected sores
 COVID-19

stomach upsethigh temperaturethreadworm

If your child is 'not themselves', please keep them home for observation.

Parents will be notified via the communication board if children in the Preschool community have an infectious illness.

https://www.health.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/migrated/files/collections/research-and-reports/m/min-period-excl-primary-schools-children-services-infect-diseases-doc.docx
This link has all infectious diseases and their minimum exclusion period.

#### Absence

Please inform the Educators if you know that your child will not be attending Preschool on a particular day. Please report absences via text to the preschool's mobile: 0490 848 262.

## **Auditory Memory Program**

Children will be encouraged to tell you of important items that they need to bring to Preschool. Through this we aim to encourage the children's memory and communication skills, as well as independence and responsibility.

The item to bring will be on the communication board and Class Dojo, please wait to see if your child remembers – prompting is appropriate e.g. Do you need to bring something to Preschool tomorrow?

## **Special Events**

Special events, particularly those in which parents participate, are seen as vital in promoting the children's social and emotional development and are also an opportunity for parents to have quality time with their child in an environment special to the child.

## **Incursions**

We offer a variety of incursions throughout the year for all the children. This is at no additional cost to the families, but we are limiting the number of these activities due to rising costs. We will be able to offer more throughout the year using the donations from the families.

## **Excursions**

A separate form is to be signed by the parent/guardian for each excursion. This is to give permission for the child to take part and to give staff the right to obtain suitable medical help if the need should arise. Parents are required to assist staff at a ratio determined by the teacher/committee for each excursion.

## **Parent Involvement**

Parents are warmly welcomed to our Preschool community. We would appreciate parents (or other carers) to do duty at least once per term. This involves assisting the educators during the Preschool session.

We invite parent helpers when the children are settled and ready. This can be in term 2 or 3 depending on the individual needs of each child in each group. When the children have settled into their new environment and we believe they will benefit from having additional adults in the room then we will put up our rosters. The timing can vary each year depending on the children.

Information is provided in our enrolment packs regarding the policies and requirements for any volunteer work at the Preschool. You will be required to have a current Working with Children Check. No one can attend or volunteer at the Preschool without a valid WWCC.

Participation in fundraising and social activities is encouraged.

The Preschool is run by volunteer parents that form our Committee. Information has been provided about which committee positions are available. We strongly encourage parents to become involved with the Preschool by becoming a committee member.

Please feel free to get in contact if you would like any information about the Committee's role and how you can become involved.

#### OUR PHILOSOPHY

Acacia Avenue Preschool is currently implementing The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia: Belonging, Being & Becoming

In conjunction with The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development for Children from Birth to Eight Years.

The outcomes are:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Be connected with and contribute to their world
- Have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators

#### Children

We advocate, respect and promote children's rights. We believe that each child is a competent and capable learner with the right to be respected as a unique individual. Children are supported in developing a sense of well-being to be and become confident, secure and thoughtful members of our learning community.

Each child is an integral part of our community and the connections between the children, their families and the wider community is recognised, celebrated, strengthened and promoted.

#### **Families**

We develop respectful and collaborative relationships with all families so they feel valued and engaged in shared decision making to support their child's learning.

We strive to promote our families' values of kindness, respect, honesty and inclusivity.

We strive to advocate for families from diverse and complex family situations to access community services, resources, programs and to work within the child protection laws and responsibilities.

## Curriculum

We facilitate each child's learning through play-based approach, that incorporates their physical, social, emotional, cognitive and emotion well-being.

We facilitate learning opportunities that reflect on children's ideas, interests, and personal experiences to encourage the development of their skills in becoming enthusiastic learners.

Learning spaces are designed and set-up thoughtfully to scaffold children's learning, presenting opportunities for sustained shared thinking and collaborative learning.

Our outdoor learning environment encourages an appreciation and connection with nature and environmental care and awareness.

#### **Educators**

The educators aim to:

- Create and maintain safe environments where children have the right to feel nurtured, respected while being provided the time and opportunity to develop their sense of identity.
- Engage in critical reflection and ongoing professional learning to review the quality of teaching and learning strategies and are committed to continuous improvement.
- Be life-long learners alongside children, families and colleagues.
- Demonstrate intentional teaching practices that are, thoughtful and purposeful in building the children's foundations for successful learning.
- Advocate early childhood education and the provision of high-quality education and care. We maintain a culture of ethical practice and in pursuit of social justice and equity.
- Use the practice principles of the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework and the National Quality Standards.

## Community

We strive to create a connected community where every member of the Preschool feels respected, included and valued.

We endeavour to demonstrate respect for all cultures of the Preschool community while acknowledging our First Nation People, we seek to collaborate with leaders and cultural groups in the community to increase our knowledge and understanding.

We demonstrate a commitment to promoting the value and contribution of our Preschool within the wider community.

## **Committee of Management**

Engage with all stakeholders to ensure the guiding principles and values of the Preschool, and its daily operations are ethical and responsible while setting clear directions for the effective operation of a quality service.

Our Preschool prides itself on the positive working relationship between educators and the committee of management. Every effort is made for open and ongoing communication, where a culture of respect creates an environment of trust and collaboration.

## **Compliments / Complaints**

We would like you to feel you can approach us if you have any concerns to bring to our attention. The teacher can be seen after a session, or an appointment made for a time that suits you. Confidentiality is at all times respected.

Any matters that you would like to bring to the attention of the Committee of Management should be directed to a committee member.

A formal grievance procedure is included in the Preschool's constitution. Copies are available from the Preschool on request by any parent.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development can also be contacted to raise any concerns you may have. You should request to speak to the Preschool adviser for this region.

Department of Education and Training South Eastern Victoria Region Office

Phone: 1300 338 738

Email: <u>sevr@edumail.vic.gov.au</u>

## **Toilet Training**

Where possible, it would be helpful if children could be toilet trained prior to starting, but we all know that every child is different, so we ask that if they are still in the process then please send your child in a pull up with spares in their bag.

Further helpful information is available at:

https://raisingchildren.net.au/Preschoolers/health-daily-care/toileting/toilet-training-guide

We know that you will have some concerns and questions as you start your child at Preschool. Please be assured that we will do everything possible to give your child the care and attention that they need. Many children settle well in Preschool, however, for some it does take time to adjust to their new surroundings. As your child begins this new experience, we would like to recommend some suggestions that you, as parents can follow.

## 1. Plan some rest into the day

Children can be very tired after Preschool. Try not to organise too many activities for them as they will be putting a lot of energy into coping with their new environment.

## 2. Plan your day so that you can spend some time with your child

When children are tired, they are often more demanding of your time. Be patient. If you can talk a little about the happenings of each day, your child will feel more relaxed and confident at Preschool.

## 3. Avoid judging the value of a day by the amount of art/craft work brought home

Your child will be encouraged to participate in a range of activities, including dramatic play, sand and water activities, block construction etc. Art/craft is just one of these. Most children enjoy art/craft activities for the process and experience of using the materials. They are not always interested in the end product.

## 4. Aim to be on time

A child who frequently arrives after the beginning of a session may have difficulty feeling a sense of belonging to the group. At the end of the session, young children can often feel very anxious if parents are not there to collect them, particularly as they see other children leaving.

\*Please telephone or text if you are going to be late to pick up your child.

Acacia Avenue Preschool offers a sessional kindergarten program only. We are unable to provide extended care hours before or after the program.

#### 5. Communication is vital

Please let an Educator know of any events that may upset your child e.g. Mum/Dad being away on business, a change in family circumstances, illness/ death, even a late night or a hectic morning, these may be helpful to communicate. At all times confidentiality is respected.

#### 6. Encourage independence

Allow your child to carry their own bag, place snack/lunch on the trolley, remember library bag etc. Helping children become independent will help them become happier learners who can think for themselves.

In line with the National Quality Standard 2.2 QA2 Children's Health and Safety, we provide evidence that healthy eating and physical activity are embedded in the program we implement at the Preschool.

We encourage healthy eating at Acacia Avenue Preschool. Our expectation is that your child is to eat the food that you provide in their snack/lunch boxes. Please ensure that you pack only the amount of food that your child would normally eat.

Please note that we are unable to put any food items that the children bring in the fridge. Please pack an ice pack in their snack/lunch. We are unable to heat the children's food due to safety and health regulations.

Throughout the program we discuss with the children the appropriate types of food to eat at Preschool. They are referred to as "sometimes" food and "everyday" food.

Everyday food needs to be in snack/lunch boxes each time a child attends Preschool. We will request sometimes food when we are celebrating a special activity/occasion.

Children are invited to celebrate their birthdays at Preschool. We do this by singing Happy Birthday and blowing out the candles on an artificial birthday cake that we have at the Preschool (made of plaster).

'Treats' can be shared when celebrating a child's birthday. Suggestions: food alternatives e.g. stickers, bubbles, balloons, pencils. Treats, chocolates, lollies etc. will be sent home in child's snack/lunch box.

3-year-old Green Group: Monday, Wednesday & Friday – named snack box and lunch

box

4-year-old Red Group: Tuesday and Wednesday – snack and lunch in separate named

containers and a piece of fruit for afternoon tea.

4-year-old Blue Group: Thursday & Friday – snack and lunch in separate named

containers and a piece of fruit for afternoon tea.

Please note that the children are given water to drink from a cup at snack/lunch/afternoon tea time. Water is also available at all other times both inside and outside during the program. Please do not send a drink bottle.

## Food suggestions:

- Fresh or dried fruit
- Savoury biscuits
- Plain biscuits

- Sandwiches
- Yoghurt

- Corn/rice cakes
- Cheese

(e.g. Teddy bear biscuits, marie biscuits etc.)

- Pitted small stone fruit.

- Wraps
- Dry biscuits
- Fruit muffins, cakes e.g. banana, blueberry, carrot, NO CHOC CHIP
- Grapes and cherry tomatoes (must be cut length ways)

<u>Please note that all home cooking requires a note of ingredients to be enclosed with the</u> food item.

#### **IMPORTANT**

We request that all products containing nuts and sesame seeds including muesli bars be kept at home. This is because we have children and staff at the Preschool with allergies.

Lollies, chocolates, chocolate cakes, chocolate biscuits, any food containing choc chips or sprinkles, potato/corn chips, popcorn, fruit/muesli bars are sometimes food and should not be provided in snack or lunch boxes.

As children learn how to take more responsibility for their own wellbeing, they will show an increasing independence and competence in personal hygiene, care and safety for themselves and others and an increasing awareness of healthy lifestyles and good nutrition. We thank you for your co-operation.

Thank you and we hope you enjoy being part of the Acacia Avenue Preschool community.