



BUSH KINDER PROGRAM FACT SHEET

What is bush kinder?

Bush kinder is based on the Forest school movement in Europe. Children attend their regular kinder session from the same “bush” location each week. Children play freely and engage with nature.

What are the benefits of bush kinder?

There has been a wide variety of research into bush kinder showing it has huge benefits to children including increased confidence, resilience, wellbeing, mental health, critical thinking skills, creativity, physical health, social skills, independence, stress reduction. These skills help prepare children for school. Children also develop language, literacy, maths and science learning through the bush kinder program. Very importantly children are happy and have fun.

How does it work?

4-year-old kinder children will be dropped off and picked up from Kingston Heath Reserve, Farm Road (end carpark) for their Friday session. The bush kinder area will be marked out and signed. Parents will sign the children in as usual. Children will need to bring a change of clothes and dress appropriately, extra wet weather gear will be provided as children will be encouraged to freely explore.

Weather Conditions	Warm/Hot	Cold/Wet
Recommended clothing and footwear	Light, loose fitting long sleeved top and long pants. Broad brimmed hat or Legionnaires hat. Closed toe shoes. T-shirts also acceptable if sunscreen has been applied to arms	Waterproof jacket, raincoat, long pants, long sleeved top, beanie, waterproof gloves, warm socks and gumboots. Thermals are recommended in very cold weather.
Not Recommended	Long skirts or dresses and shorts.	Skirts and dresses – so as to enable waterproofs to be worn over clothing,
Unacceptable	Open toe shoes, sandals, thongs, crocs and singlet tops.	Non-waterproof outer clothing

A porta-loo will be brought to the site and staff have a key to access the toilets at the sports pavilion and can take the children when necessary. A minimum of one parent helper will be needed for each session. The children will be prepared in advance as educators will teach them about protective behaviours for dogs, animals, climbing and staying in the designated area. There will be specific bush kinder policies for Dog Awareness; Emergency Evacuation; Protective Clothing; Snake Awareness & First Aid; Delivery & Collection of Children; Extreme Weather; Safety & Hygiene.

Bush kinder will operate in rainy and cold weather and only be cancelled (relocated back to the kinder) in extreme or unsafe weather conditions. Parents will be notified by text message of cancellation.

If you have any further questions please contact our 4-year-old kindergarten teachers.