



Hello
Kindergarten

Riva
PRIMARY SCHOOL

What to expect in your child's Kindergarten year at Riva Primary School

Information in this booklet adapted from
“Hello Kindergarten! What to expect when
your child starts Kindergarten.”
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Being Belonging Becoming

Respect, Inclusion and Achievement are at the heart of all that we do at Riva Primary School.

At Riva Primary School, in Early Childhood we provide intentional and inclusive programs that achieve a balance between explicit teaching and play based learning. We nurture the whole child, building on their strengths and strive to develop each child's unique abilities.

Our Early Childhood programs are planned to support each child's Physical, Cognitive, Social, Emotional and Language Development.

Our staff place importance on developing positive relationships between staff, students and families. The learning environment at Riva Primary School is created to foster a sense of ownership and respect, reflecting the identity and culture of the children and families, and encouraging a connection to place.

Staff implement Developmentally Appropriate Practices where:

- » Children are engaged in authentic, meaningful learning experiences through intentional teaching;
- » Children learn through active engagement and hands-on learning;
- » There is a balance between teacher directed and child directed learning; and
- » Play provides an important part of the learning process.

Our intentional learning programs are informed by the WA Curriculum, WA Kindergarten Guidelines and Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).



Educational Program

The program for Kindergarten at Riva Primary School provides a balance between explicit instruction and play based learning. The Western Australian Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) inform the intentional programs developed by our teachers.

The five areas of learning and development in the Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines are based on the five outcomes of the EYLF. These are:

IDENTITY - children have a strong sense of identity.

CONNECTING & CONTRIBUTING - children are connected with and contribute to their world.

WELLBEING - children have a strong sense of wellbeing.

LEARNING & THINKING - children are confident and involved learners.

COMMUNICATING - children are effective communicators.

Monday
8.40am to 2.50pm

Tuesday
8.40am to 2.50pm

**Alternate Wednesdays
(‘Odd’ Weeks)**
8.40am to 2.50pm

GREEN

Monday
8.40am to 2.50pm

Tuesday
8.40am to 2.50pm

**Alternate Wednesdays
(‘Odd’ Weeks)**
8.40am to 2.50pm

PURPLE

Monday
8.40am to 2.50pm

Tuesday
8.40am to 2.50pm

**Alternate Wednesdays
(‘Odd’ Weeks)**
8.40am to 2.50pm

GOLD

Thursday
8.40am to 2.50pm

Friday
8.40am to 2.50pm

**Alternate Wednesdays
(‘Even’ Weeks)**
8.40am to 2.50pm

BLUE

Thursday
8.40am to 2.50pm

Friday
8.40am to 2.50pm

**Alternate Wednesdays
(‘Even’ Weeks)**
8.40am to 2.50pm

RED

Thursday
8.40am to 2.50pm

Friday
8.40am to 2.50pm

**Alternate Wednesdays
(‘Even’ Weeks)**
8.40am to 2.50pm

TEAL



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.



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.

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.

At Riva, we hold parent information sessions before the school year starts. 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.

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.



Your enthusiasm helps your child settle into Kindergarten and be proud of the things they learn each day.



Uniform and personal belongings

The Riva Primary School uniform is a requirement for all Kindergarten students.

Information on the school dress code is in the Riva Handbook, and website. Uniforms can be purchased from Lowes Maddington Central or online at www.lowes.com.au

- Please allow your child to wear Velcro or slip-on shoes until they can tie their own shoelaces.
- Clothes need to be easily managed for toileting and to encourage self-management skills.
- Please keep a spare set of clothes and underwear in your child's school bag in case of messy play or accidents.
- Children require a school bag which is large enough to hold their lunch box and a spare change of clothes. The school bag also needs to be easy for your child to carry.
- Please clearly label all clothing, shoes, hats and bags with your child's full name.
- Please apply sunscreen before your child comes to school each day.



Going to school every day really matters

At Riva, your child's teacher plans programs and activities that build on previously learned skills. Developing the habit of going to school regularly is vital so your child does not miss out on important ideas and skills they need for future learning. While attendance is not compulsory in Kindergarten, we strongly encourage regular attendance. The school will follow up all unexplained absences.

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 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; and
- 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 SMS the school to let us 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.

Fuelling learning

The teacher plans regular breaks each day so your child can eat and play:

Crunch and Sip: all classes at Riva participate in Crunch and Sip. This is a break during class time where students snack on fruit and vegetables only (Crunch), and drink water (Sip). Participating in a daily in-class Crunch & Sip break provides an opportunity to support good health and to help with learning and concentration in the classroom. The classroom teacher will timetable the Crunch & Sip break into the day based on the needs of the students.

Morning tea: we recommend 1-2 pieces of fresh fruit (cut up if necessary) or raw vegetable sticks and other healthy snacks. You may like to send morning tea in a separate container.

Lunch: please provide your child with a nutritious and healthy lunch – please avoid chips, cake and processed foods if possible. All food must be brought to school in a named lunch box.

Drinks: students need to bring a water bottle every day, with their name on it. Please ensure it is filled with water (no juice or cordial please).

The children are given adequate time to eat their lunch. All remaining lunch is put back in their lunch boxes so you have an idea of how much, and what, has been eaten.

Please pack morning tea, Crunch and Sip and lunch in wrappers and containers that your child can open easily and independently. Self-management is a very important skill that your child learns at this time.





What will my child learn?

Your child experiences many different learning activities in a carefully planned learning environment. 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.

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 encouraging a love of learning and enthusiasm for going to school each day.

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.

The First Day

Starting school can be an anxious experience for both you and your child.

Here are some tips to get ready for starting the new school year:

- Go past the school and talk to your child about how they will soon be coming here, the exciting things they will do, and the friends they will make;
- Check that your child has all the listed requirements and is ready for the first day;
- Practise using their school lunchbox so that they get used to opening it independently;
- Explain that Mum/Dad or a Caregiver will drop them off and then pick them up when school has finished; and
- The first few weeks can be a big adjustment for the students – please ensure they receive adequate sleep (3-6-year-old children should average 10-12 hours sleep per night).

On the first day of school, it may be helpful for your child (and you!) if you:

- Acknowledge your child's emotions and explain that you will leave and they will be safe with their teacher;
- Speak with your child's teacher. If your child is upset, they may like to stay with a staff member as you leave or ask them what they would like to do to help them as you leave;
- Say "Goodbye" so that they are aware that you are leaving. Remind them that you (or another family member) will pick them up at the end of the day.

How you can help

Parents/Carers are a major influence on children's learning.

You can help your child by:

- Keeping in touch with your child's teacher on matters concerning your child's development;
- Connect with your child's learning on Seesaw (via app or web);
- Encourage independence and allow your child to unpack their belongings and carry their own bag;
- Read notice boards outside your child's classroom;
- Notify the teacher of any changes in normal routine within the home;
- Adhere to pick up and drop off times;
- Notify the teacher if your child is receiving any therapies outside of school eg. speech or occupational therapy and provide copies of any reports;
- Notify the office of any emergency contact information changes or medical updates;
- Talk with your child about their learning; and
- Encourage effort and accept mistakes when learning.



General Information

Allergy Aware School

Please be aware that we have students at our school who have severe and potentially life-threatening allergies to certain foods including nuts and eggs. Your consideration where possible is much appreciated.

Birthdays

You are welcome to send a birthday cake to school with your child. Small cupcakes are preferable. Please do not send food that contains peanut products. The school will advise if there are other foods or products that are a risk to students in our Early Childhood classes.

Celebrations

Throughout the year the students will be involved in learning about different celebrations and cultures. Please let your child's teacher know if you do not wish your child to participate in celebrations such as birthdays, Christmas and other cultural celebrations.

Communication

Staff may be contacted via email or Seesaw. If you would like to speak to your child's teacher with a concern or to discuss your child's progress, please make an appointment with the teacher.

Drop Off & Pick Up

Children in Kindergarten are required to be taken to their classroom in the morning and picked up from the classroom in the afternoon by their parent or caregiver. Please contact the school if someone other than those listed on the student's details list will be picking up your child.

Family Involvement

Parent involvement is encouraged to maintain important home and school connection. Your interest and involvement greatly encourages your child. A family roster chart will be developed by class teachers to facilitate parent assistance and involvement that is suited to the needs of the children and the classroom.

Families will be informed of opportunities to be involved throughout the year.

Family members other than direct parents/guardians will require a Working with Children Check. All volunteers must sign in through the front office.



Illness & Accidents

Keeping your child at home when they are sick helps to minimise the spread of infection to other children and staff. Please notify your child's teacher if your child is unwell and going to be absent from school. If your child becomes unwell during school hours, you will be phoned by the school to come and collect your child. Please keep your child home if they are experiencing any of the following:

- Live head lice
- Fever
- Cold/flu symptoms
- Weeping sores
- Diarrhoea or vomiting (do not attend school until 24-48 hours after it has ceased)
- Any infectious diseases e.g. influenza, measles, chickenpox, whooping cough, school sores etc.

If your child is involved in an accident, it will be recorded and treated appropriately. You will be notified by the school of the incident that occurred and any first aid provided. If it is serious, the parent/guardian will be contacted.

Further information

Comprehensive information about Riva Primary School is available in the 2023 Handbook. This is available from the school website at

www.rivaps.wa.edu.au

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.





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. Our 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.

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!

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.



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