

# SURREY HILLS PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What does Surrey Hills Pre-School's program involve?

- The program is planned around the individual needs of each child and the group as a whole. All children are encouraged to develop to their full potential. The program provides open-ended individual and group activities that encourage the children's physical, social, intellectual, language and emotional development. The program includes:
  - 3/4 year old Preschool
  - 4/5 year old Kindergarten
  - Music Program
  - Bush Kinder
  - Sports
  - Art
  - Wellbeing: Hello Yoga
  - Indigenous Perspectives
  - Sustainability

### What will my child do during a kinder session?

- We offer a play based emergent program based on the children's interests. During the session your child will engage in indoor and outdoor play experiences, group time activities including music and movement, inquiry learning and stories. They will also have a snack and lunch. Our 3yo groups are encouraged to have a rest in the afternoon.

### What are the child to educator ratios and how many children are in each group?

- All of our groups have a ratio of 1 educator to 11 children. There are 22 places in each of our four groups.

### What is Surrey Hills Pre-School's National Quality Standard Rating?

- Surrey Hills Pre-School Centre was rated *Exceeding the National Quality Standards* in all seven quality areas of the National Quality Framework as of May 2023. This rating reflects that the centre goes above and beyond the national benchmark for early childhood education and care. An "Exceeding" rating in all areas signifies outstanding performance across the board.

### What is a community based kinder and how can I get involved as a parent?

- Our kindergarten is run by a parent volunteer Committee of Management alongside our amazing team of educators. Parents are encouraged to get involved by putting their hand up to be on the committee, for other support roles, and getting involved in social and fundraising activities. We are very proud of our wonderful community and culture.

### Is Surrey Hills Pre-School offering Free Kinder?

- Yes. The Committee of Management and Educators have again agreed to continue to offer Free Kinder in 2026, an initiative announced by the Victorian Government mid 2022. Please contact [enrolments@surreyhillspreschool.com.au](mailto:enrolments@surreyhillspreschool.com.au) with any questions about Fees and/or Free Kinder.

### What does Free Kinder mean for 2026 fees?

- Please see our timetable on our website for details on fees for Surrey Hills Pre-School Centre in 2026.

### Do you offer Pre-Prep?

- The Victorian Government are slowly transitioning 4yo Kinder Programs to Pre-Prep hours across the state. From 2026, all children across the state identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, children from a refugee or asylum seeker background,

and children who have had contact with Child Protection services, can access between 16 and 25 hours of Pre-Prep, and up to 30 hours from 2028. In addition, any child who was supported by the Access to Early Learning program as a 3-year-old is eligible for these same hours of Pre-Prep as a 4-year-old from 2026. Please contact [enrolments@surreyhillspreschool.com.au](mailto:enrolments@surreyhillspreschool.com.au) if your child is eligible for these increased hours.

## My child turns 3 before the 30th of April, when should they start kinder?

- Children are eligible to enrol in Kindergarten if they turn three before the 30th of April. However, children need to be three years of age before they can attend the Kindergarten. There is significant research that advocates that a child born between January and April have their Kindergarten start age deferred. This is an important decision for parents to make and we invite you to speak with our educators to discuss your child's individual circumstances. Please attend our online information night on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025 for more information - you can **register on our website [surreyhillspreschool.com.au](http://surreyhillspreschool.com.au)**.

## Can my child have a second year of funding?

- Children in Victoria are funded for two years of kindergarten before starting school. Kindergartens must submit children's names by March to secure this funding, meaning enrolment also determines when a child starts school.
- A second year of funded Four-Year-Old Kindergarten may be approved if: The child shows developmental delays based on the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework; Kindergarten is considered the best learning environment and the child is likely to have better outcomes staying in kindergarten than starting school.
- From 2026, eligible children may access an additional year of either Three-Year-Old Kindergarten or Pre-Prep (or Four-Year-Old Kindergarten if not eligible for Pre-Prep), but not both.

## Can I claim CCS (child care subsidy)?

- No. As we are a sessional kinder with government funding families are unable to claim CCS for any of our programs.

## Can my child also attend another kindergarten or childcare centre?

- Your child is only able to access funding at one centre. As we only offer funded places, your child is unable to access a funded place at another service. However, you may be able to enrol your child in a full fee place elsewhere.

## What is the Additional Hours Kinder Program?

- In addition to the 15 hours of free kinder for 2026, we are offering an optional 3 additional hours of our full kinder program for our 4-5 year old groups. The fee for this program is \$260 per term.

## What is the After Hours Care Program?

- Our After Hours Care program runs from 2:30-4:30pm daily and is available to children in our 4-5 year old groups only. It is similar to an Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program run at primary schools and is for families who need a later pick up time. It is not a kinder program and your child will not be disadvantaged if they do not attend After Hours Care. This program is staffed differently to our core kinder hours. The fee for After Hours Care is \$175 per term, for each day required.

# More questions?

 03 9836 4902

 [info@surreyhillspreschool.com.au](mailto:info@surreyhillspreschool.com.au)

 [www.surreyhillspreschool.com.au](http://www.surreyhillspreschool.com.au)

Tours run at 4:30pm on the first Wednesday of every month

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