THE PlaySpace

What is The PlaySpace?

The PlaySpace is Primarily a small Playgroup/ School that caters for children between 18 months and 3 years old, Mondays-Fridays. The children can stay at The PlaySpace for the whole year that they are 3 years old and will move onto Gr 000 from us.

We cater for 2 groups of children, splitting them by their age groups.

Yellow (children turning 2 years old in the current year)

Green group (children turning 3yrs old in the current year)

They may attend 2/3/4 or 5 days a week.

Who runs The PlaySpace?

The school is run by Ariadni Hind, known as Az, a qualified teacher specialising in Early Childhood Development and the Foundation phase with over 18 years teaching experience with children ranging from 0-9 years old.

With experience from teaching at Westville Junior Primary, Cygnet Prep School as well as owning Toptots Westville for 3 years, Ariadni is passionate, equipped, and capable with running a school as well as teaching young children. She is super passionate about child development and loves teaching children through a very hands-on and fun approach! Az also loves working with parenting, supporting, and encouraging them through the sometimes trying Toddler years.
Melissa Hatch teaches alongside Az. She is a qualified teacher also specialising in the ECD and Foundation phases. She has 9 years teaching experience also worked at Cygnet Prep and as part of Az's Toptots' staff team. She has definitely been called to work with this age group, and it is so evident in the loving way in which she deals with the children.

We are so blessed to have three wonderful teacher assistants at The PlaySpace!

Ester has worked alongside Az since 2016 and is the kindest and calmest lady ever.

Vivian is so patient and loving and always ready to comfort the children.

Sethu brings all the fun and energy and is always up for playing with the children.

Together this team of ladies make sure that the school is kept spotless, that the children are well-cared for and that they feel all the love. They also assist with potty training and nappy changing.

School Ethos

The PlaySpace is run by a Christian staff, however we embrace and are respectful of others cultural and religious beliefs. All are welcome at The PlaySpace.
We firmly believe that South African children should learn about each other and show kindness and tolerance towards each other regardless of race, religion, or culture.
We acknowledge and teach the children about most of the main cultural celebrations (Easter, Eid, Diwali, Christmas) throughout the year.

Where is The PlaySpace?

The PlaySpace is on Az Hind's property in Cowies Hill. It is a completely separate area of the property and has a beautiful, big, open, shaded, and safe garden for the children to play in. Real grass and real trees 😊

The classroom is an open plan space, with a separate kitchen and storeroom as well as a bathroom with a nappy changing area.

We have 2 spaces that we split the younger and older children for concept teaching. Az generally teaches the older children and Mel teaches the younger ones, but we work closely with all the children and get to know them equally well.

The school is fenced, secure, monitored by cameras and safe. There is parking for parents inside the property.

Rates for 2026		
5 days/week	R225 per day	Approx R4500 per month
4 days/week	R225 per day	Approx R3600 per month
3 days/week	R235 per day	Approx R2820 per month
2 days/week	R235 per day	Approx R1880 per month

PLEASE NOTE:
Holidays and Public Holidays are not billed for.
You are still liable for fees for the days that your child should be at school according to the days you have chosen, regardless of absenteeism or if you go on holiday during school term time.
A month's paid notice is required, should you need to withdraw your child from the school.

Daily Schedule:

07:15-08:40	Arrival Free play Tidy up time	Arrival Free play Tidy up time
08:45-09:15	Morning Ring	Outside play and small group craft activity
09:15-09:45	Outside play and small group craft activity	Morning ring and concept
09:45-10:00	Snack time	
10:00-10:45	Free play and continue with art	Snack time and free play
10:45-11:15	Indoor Free play (more cognitive activities)	Outside play/cycle on driveway/art
11:15-11:30	Wash hands and pack bags	Wash Hands (11:30)
11:30-11:45	Story time Home time	Story time Home time (12:00)

Each week has a new theme. Info and songs etc are sent out on the WhatsApp group to keep parents up to date with what we are learning.

Nappy changing, potty training and toileting

Nappies will be changed regularly throughout the morning at our specific nappy changing area. A stock of your child's nappies will be kept safely in their own tub at school.

We will keep a record of nappies changed throughout the day for you.

We will help with potty training for the children that are ready when they are ready. Please ensure you pack spare underwear for them if they are at this stage.

Specific toileting requirements will be followed for those that need this.

Please ensure that you pack spares just in case we have accidents.

Snack time

Children will be provided with a snack each day.

- Small Sandwiches
- Fruit
- No meat products will be given
- Please provide water in a suitable bottle for them. NO JUICE please.
- Please inform us if you have any specific dietary requirements
- Baker Baker/Treat Day on Fridays
- We do birthday rings on their birthdays. You may send in cupcakes etc and party packs if you wish. We will sing to them, make them feel special and send you photos and videos.

What do I need to pack for my child?

- Small school bag with extra clothes to change into. Please don't send your child to school in designer clothes. They will get ruined!
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Nappies/wet wipes/barrier cream etc/underwear. We will ask you for a stock of these items to keep at school that you just 'top-up' as needed.
- Plastic packets for wet/dirty clothes
- Water bottle (no juice please)
- Any security items that they need initially until they settle.

Communication

- Most of our communication is done via WhatsApp. We have a class group where info and messages are posted as needed and a separate group for The Yellow Group and Green Group for info specific to just their group.
- In the beginning when your child starts, updates, photos and videos are sent very regularly on how they are settling in, and then we ease off as they settle.
- We are always very open to chat about your child's progress and to discuss any concerns that you may have.
- We have parent meetings in the 1st and the 3rd term, but we are always willing to update you on progress should you need regular updates.

Extra-Murals: Ballet and PlayBall

We are so thrilled that we can offer both these extra murals during the school day for the children at The PlaySpace. Ballet is on Monday and taught by Sue Cook from Sue Cook Dance Studios. She is amazing with the girls, and they love their ballet classes!

Playball is a wonderful ball skills programme where they teach the basic foundational skills for sport. The children really benefit from this extra-mural that focusses primarily on their gross motor development.
Both extra-murals are optional and are billed for privately.



A note from Az…

Three important areas of development for this age group are, separating, socialising, and sharing.
Taking the big step of sending your precious little one is often heart-wrenching at first. There may be a few tears in the beginning, but I can assure you that your child will settle, and they will be absolutely fine once they are familiar with their new environment and with Mel, Ester, Vivian, Sethu and I as their teachers.
I believe in open communication and will help as much as I can to make the transition as easy as possible for your child…and for you! I have 3 of my own children who all did not separate well at their start of school, so I know how hard this is. We will take things day by day.

I am a firm believer that children are 'built' for play and that it is the primary way in which they learn.
This age group in particular is the age group where they are like little 'sponges' and their rate of learning is incredible. You will be amazed at what they are capable of learning and how independent they will become!
Children learn so much from each other too and they love to be around other children. It is always rewarding to see how they learn to interact with each other and how friendships start to develop.

In terms of discipline, I believe that children thrive in an environment where there are clear, set boundaries. We are loving and fair and understand that they are still learning where the boundaries are and will use 'Time-Out' if necessary.
(1 minute for each year that they are, so maximum 3 minutes)
Listening is probably the most important skill for little children to learn, but it is also one of the hardest to teach and takes lots of consistency and training.

Please know that you can trust me with your little one and that I will always have their best interests and well-being at heart. I trust my staff whole-heartedly and they all have a calm and patient approach with children.
Your child will be loved for who they are at The PlaySpace!

I am so looking forward to teaching your little one and getting to know them…
Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or concerns.
Pop in for a visit if you like!

Thank you…
Sincerely, Az

