



## Burch Memorial Pre-School

Old Yarra Road Wonga Park Vic 3115

Telephone: (03) 9722 1639

Email: [burch.family.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:burch.family.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

### Preschool Readiness

#### Is your child ready for 3-year-old Kinder?

Welcome to Burch Memorial Preschool. We are thrilled that you have chosen our Preschool, to start your child's educational journey. We have included some useful information for parents of children who will be young in the year they attend 3yo preschool. We hope this information will assist to guide your decision.

- All children who turn 3 years of age before the 30th of April of the year they enrol, are eligible for 3-year-old kinder.
- In accordance with the state government regulations, if a child has not turned 3 years of age prior to the commencement of the kinder year, they are not able to attend our Kinder until their third birthday.

**Please note: The Department of Education and Training does not allow children to receive funding for a second year of funded 3yo preschool.**

**For a child to receive funding for a second year of 4yo preschool, the child must be assessed as demonstrating delays in at least two areas of development, and it must be considered that he or she will benefit from a second year of the program. Children who are 'just young' will not meet the eligibility criteria.**

It is very important that families carefully assess whether or not their child is ready for the start of their kinder journey. Once a child starts 3-year-old kinder, they are then on the path to move into 4-year-old kinder the following year and then school the next year. If a child starts 3-year-old kinder *too early* they most likely will not be ready for 4-year-old kinder and school.

We do not want to see children struggling through either of these preschool years and certainly do not want to send children off to school before they are ready. In our experience as educators, we see no disadvantage when children start kinder a little later. In fact, the longer you give your child to mature socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively, the more prepared they will be for preschool and school, and the more they will benefit from these experiences.

Over the years, our observation has been that children who turn 3 between January and April benefit from waiting a year and starting 3-year-old kinder the year they turn 4.



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**Your child will settle into the 3yo program more comfortably if he/she is able to:**

- Belong to a group of 22 children and interact positively with peers and educators
- Begin to share with others – resources, spaces, ideas
- Start to follow instructions and respond to guidelines
- Follow a basic routine
- Pay attention for short periods of time and start to complete small tasks
- Begin to feel more confident separating from parents
- Stamina – Does your child sleep during the day?
- Begin to control their own behaviour and emotions
- Start to display independence skills – there are 2 adults to support and educate 22 children, and one of the goals in our 3-year-old program is for the children to learn to be independent and to become confident decision makers. For example: turn taps on, wash their hands, wipe their nose, choose a puzzle, start to toilet themselves and dress and undress themselves

Should you choose to defer your child's 3-year-old kindergarten year you may be interested to know that The Wonga Park Community Cottage (next door to Burch Memorial) offers *Occasional Care* sessions every weekday morning. This is a great opportunity for younger children to become familiar with a learning environment in the year before kindergarten.

If you would like to discuss your decision further, please contact us on 9722 1639 or email [admin@burchmemorial.com.au](mailto:admin@burchmemorial.com.au). Our educators will be happy to chat with you about your child's individual needs.

Kind Regards,  
Burch Memorial Preschool