



SOUTHERN CROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL
NATURE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

In 2020 we introduced a separate nature preschool program called Walga. The program is based primarily outdoors, utilising the large amount of school grounds that are available to us at different times of the day, with time spent exploring our land and local community. The children are invited to attend local excursions and incursions as the ever growing program is extended from the interests of the children, ensuring that the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standards guide our practice at all times.

The program will be run using research from educational theorists such as Froebel, Steiner, Vygotsky and Montessori, all who put the child at the centre of their own learning. An influential theorist that will guide our bioecological style of learning will be Bronfenbrenner, who believes that a person's development is affected by everything in their surrounding environment. Included in our curriculum is a dedicated nature program, meaning that regardless of the weather we will venture outdoors into Canberra's very own classroom. You can expect your child to jump in puddles, feel frost on the grass, run, skip and get dirty as they explore and create their own adventures.

WHEN

The program runs from 9:00am to 3:00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

The program only runs during ACT school terms with before and after school care on offer for families who require additional care.

As the nature program does not run during school holidays, vacation care is available for families to enrol in if needed.





FEE STRUCTURE

We believe it is important to support all of our families and provide you with a range of options to suit your family's needs. The following options are available for you to enrol your child into:

1. Nature Preschool (NP)
9:00 - 3:00 = \$74
2. NP + Before Preschool Care (BPSC)
7:30 - 3:00 = \$99
3. NP + After Preschool Care (APSC)
9:00 - 6:00 = \$111
4. All day: BPSC + NP + APSC*
7:30 - 6:00 = \$126
(*Option 4 includes all meals as well as a lunch order)

ARRIVAL AND COLLECTION

Upon arrival to our service you are required to sign your child in QKiosk via our tablets. This is a legal requirement, connecting your attendance to Centrelink and your families' Child Care Subsidy (CCS). Only those authorised by the family on the child's enrolment form are able to sign your child in and out of the service.

- If your child attends our Before Preschool Care Program you will drop off in the school hall after 7:30am and our educators will transition your child to the Reflection Courtyard for the Nature Program.
- Between 9:00am and 9:30am you will be able to drop off your child into the Reflection Courtyard
- Collection of your child will be in the Reflection Courtyard between 2:30pm and 3:00pm, unless attending After Preschool Care.
- If your child attends our After Preschool Care program our educators will transition them from the Reflection Courtyard to the school hall where you can collect your child prior to 6:00pm.



WHAT TO BRING

We believe in the importance of learning through play, and will aim to remain outdoors as long as the children are happy to do so

We recommend a medium to large sized back pack, so that all your child's belongings can remain with them throughout the day as they explore.

Please bring:

- Plenty of spare changes of clothing (including shoes, gumboots and raincoats for wet weather or beanies, parkers and thick socks for cold weather)
- A packed lunch box with morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea (Lunch orders will be available to purchase from the school canteen which will include a piece of fruit and an afternoon snack along with their lunch)
- A medium to large sized water bottle (these will be refilled during the day)
- A sun safe hat
- Any medication/other essential items your child might require throughout the day





WE CANNOT WAIT TO START EXPLORING WITH YOU!

If you have any further questions please feel free to email our Educational Leader:

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or our Centre Administrator:

southerncross@anglicare.com.au