



October 2008

Dear parents and friends,

Thank you for your interest in Grace Kindergarten. Key items included in this prospectus are:

1. Staff, hours and costs
2. Background Information
3. Objectives of Grace Kindergarten
4. The educational philosophy and the curriculum
5. The policy of entry into Grace Kindergarten

If you would like your child to attend Grace Kindergarten we encourage you to enrol him or her on the waiting list as soon as possible. In order to do this, please complete the enrolment form and return it to our office.

For further information you are welcome to contact Mrs. Pip McGee at the Kindergarten. We would love for you to visit the kindergarten while we are in session. Please call to make an appointment first, however, as we need to keep all staff informed.

The Board of Management sincerely thanks the Grace Kindergarten community for their wonderful support. We look ahead with excitement as we continue to develop and enhance Grace Kindergarten.

Yours sincerely

Esther van der Voorn
Chairperson

Staff and Board of Management

Staff

Mrs Pip McGee(Head Teacher)
Miss Ashleigh Best
Mrs Pansy Wee
Mrs Shelley Julian
Mrs Angela Marklew (Administrator – Part-time)

Board Members

Mrs Esther van der Voorn (*Chairperson*)
Mr Peter van der Voorn (*Treasurer*) Mr Sym Gardiner
Mrs Marie Butel Joanne Goodwin

Hours & costs:

The kindergarten operates during primary school terms.

Morning: Ages 2 ½ to 3 ½ approx
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8.30am to 11am

Afternoon: Ages approx 3 ½ to 5
Monday to Friday 11:30pm to 3:45pm

Enrolment

When the completed enrolment form is returned to our office, your child's details will be entered onto our waiting list.

Donations and costs

Grace Kindergarten is part of the ECE 20 Hours ECE scheme.

Under 3 Years old

A donation to assist with meeting the ongoing costs of the kindergarten, a donation of \$5 per session is requested.

For Children over 3 years and over

20 Hours ECE

If your child's 20 hours ECE hours are attested to Grace Kindergarten, a donation of \$20 per term per family is requested to assist in additional resources and services. For any non-attested hours, a fee of \$9.90 Inc GST per non attested hour will be charged to cover operating expenses.

In addition to these payments it is important that parents support the social efforts of the kindergarten throughout the year for the raising of funds.

This assists the ongoing costs of the kindergarten and additional resources and services.

POLICY ON PRIORITY OF ENTRY INTO KINDERGARTEN

All children are entered onto the waiting list initially.

Children may be entered onto the waiting list at any age from birth onwards.

The minimum age of entry is two and a half years.

When a position becomes available for another child to be admitted, the criteria determining priority of admission is as follows:

1. Priority of access shall be given to children of parents who are members of Onslow Community Church irrespective of date of enrolment.
2. Maintain an even balance of church and non-church families.
3. In recognition that Grace Kindergarten is part of the ministry to the community of Onslow Community Church, preference will be given to families within the Johnsonville-Ngaio areas.
4. Those children who have or have had an older sibling in attendance.
5. Date of enrolment shall be taken into consideration within points 2 to 4 above.
6. When taking into consideration all of the above criteria those children whose parents show intention of long-term involvement, e.g. using Grace Kindergarten as their main means of Early Childhood Education until their child is of age to start school shall have priority.

Special cases of need shall be taken into consideration on consultation with the Head Teacher and the Board of Management.

For entry into afternoon session: In addition to the above, those children who have already been attending morning session. This is also dependent on age, and space available.

Curriculum

The curriculum includes the Ministry of Education's Music Curriculum and "Te Whāriki" for early childhood programmes, Biblical themes and stories at a level appropriate for early childhood, and individually orientated programmes.

The programme is Biblically based and incorporates the Ministry of Education's Music Curriculum, and "Te Whāriki for Early Childhood Programmes". It provides a balance between spontaneous play and structured activity. Individual children's needs are gauged through observation and assessment and taken into account in the general programme and through individual and small group work. Easter and Christmas are eventful times in the kindergarten, and children's birthdays are acknowledged as special.

Transition Group

A specialty of Grace Kindergarten is the Transition Group for 4½ to 5 years old age group. Mrs McGee is developing a programme assisting in the transition from kindergarten to school.

Activities include:

- Recalling and retelling stories (both verbally, written and with drawings)
- Numeracy
- Alphabet games

The focus is on fun, enthusiastic approach to learning, and an introduction to some strategies, resources and routines that are commonly used in junior classes of primary schools.

Objectives of Grace Kindergarten

The main objective of Grace Kindergarten is to provide quality early childhood education founded on Biblical principles in a structured, stimulating and caring environment.

In particular we aim to:

1. Develop each child spiritually, emotionally, physically and intellectually. To engender respect for God, parents, peers, those in authority and the environment.
2. To provide a structured and stimulating environment that is warm and welcoming to both children and adults.
3. To ensure that Grace Kindergarten is staffed and managed competently.
4. To support families associated with the Centre, reinforcing family values.

We attempt to achieve these objectives by:

1. Teaching in a way that reflects a biblical view of life.
2. Promote Biblical awareness through teaching and demonstrating its application to the whole of life.
3. Maintain close links with parents endeavouring to reinforce Christian values taught in the home.
4. Endeavouring to equip the children with a wide range of skills and general knowledge.
5. Encouraging individuality and areas of special aptitude.
6. Fostering healthy participation in play and outdoor activity that develop co-operation and bodily co-ordination.
7. Encouraging the development of cultural and artistic abilities and providing opportunities for the expression of these within the kindergarten.
8. Provide a caring environment marked by Christian understanding, support, encouragement and correction.

Support

The support given to Grace Kindergarten reflects parental recognition of the relevance and value of its strong Christian character in today's world. The support also recognises the importance of sound learning in a structured and caring environment and the professional competence of the staff.

Charter

A copy of the Charter is available for perusal at the Kindergarten. If you require a copy then please ask the Head Teacher.

Class of Licence

Grace Kindergarten holds an All Day Licence for over 2 year olds.

Roll Structure

Twenty-four children attend the morning and afternoon sessions (1:8 ratios)

Educational Philosophy

At Grace Kindergarten we aim to develop the children's social, emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual lives to their potential. The curriculum is designed to help fulfil this aim.

The spontaneous play includes a wide range of early childhood experiences such as sand, water, 'messy' play, carpentry, blocks and construction, art, music and movement, storytelling, cooking, puzzles and mathematical games. Children are encouraged to resolve conflict peacefully, and clear behaviour limits are set.

The structured times include music and movement, art, storytelling (including Bible stories), games, prayer, and extension activities. Lunch and snack times are taken as a group as part of the session's routines, and we say 'grace' beforehand. The content of group times in the afternoon session follows a thematic approach designed to enrich and widen all aspects of the children's development and experiential learning. Outings are a regular occurrence in the afternoon session.