



# **Bush Kinder Information Booklet**

**2019**

**Maribyrnong Kindergarten Inc - Bush Kinder component  
Pipemakers Park, Maribyrnong**

**Phone or text: 0477 812 342** (please ensure you have saved this number for your records)



**BUSH KINDER SESSION TIMES**

BLUE GROUP: Thursday 11.30am - 2.30pm

YELLOW GROUP: Friday 8.15am -11.15am

**3 YEAR OLD *Bush Kinder sessions will be running starting in Term Two.***

PURPLE GROUP: Thursday 8.30am -10.30am

GREEN GROUP: Friday 12.00pm -2.00pm

***Maribyrnong Bush Kinder is a special part of a child's total kinder experience. It draws upon and extends on the existing philosophy and pedagogy of Maribyrnong Kindergarten to offer a unique educational program and recognises the place the bush has in Australia and the significance of the land in aboriginal culture.***

***No toys, No tools, No art supplies. The children and adults benefit from using only what nature has provided. Outdoor spaces with plants, trees, rocks, mud and water invite open ended interactions, spontaneity, risk taking and a connection with nature.***

**Risk Assesment:**

**A risk assessment is completed of the bush kinder site.** This was provided to all families upon enrolment. Please ensure you read all our Policies and are familiar with your responsibilities and our procedures. A hard copy of these can be located in the foyer and a digital copy on our website.

Staff, in consultation with the Committee of Management have developed this document and it is to be monitored and updated regularly. Families will be provided with an updated copy of the Bush Kinder risk assessment each time a change is made to this document

**Cancellation:**

Bush kinder runs all year round and will only be cancelled in times of extreme weather. If cancellation is necessary you will be sent an SMS to your mobile phone and this may occur on the day of your session. **PLEASE ENSURE YOU KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY CHANGES IN YOUR MOBILE NUMBER.** Although cancellation is unlikely, the following information can be used as a guide to determine the possibility that a session may not be run.

In most instances, staff will also assess local conditions on site.

- Forecast temperature - 36 degrees Celsius or greater
- Forecast wind speed in excess of 45km per hour
- Forecast of electrical storm activity
- BOM weather warnings of extreme storm conditions and excessive rainfall

For weather details visit: <http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/forecasts/melbourne.shtml>

### **When shouldn't my child attend?**

We ask that parents/carers are diligent and exercise their own judgement in assessing whether it is appropriate for their children to attend Bush Kinder. Children should not attend Bush Kinder if they are ill, excessively tired or if parents are concerned about their well being due to forecast weather conditions

### **Others in attendance:**

To ensure our kindergarten children are given freedom to play and engage with nature we ask that adults are respectful of their space at all times. During Pick/up and drop off times if you have siblings present please ensure that you are aware of where your child is at all times to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

### **Pick up and drop off:**

The drop off point is the home base at Pipemakers Park as designated in the orientation session.

### **Drop-off:**

Parents and carers please ensure that you:

- Take child to home base and wait for the session to begin. All children will assemble here with parents until Bush Kinder session formally commences (teacher will coo-ee to indicate the start of the session)
- Sign your child in using the attendance book and record the time of arrival
- remind your child to place their bag/backpack in allocated area

### **Pick-up**

Parents and carers need to ensure they:

- Sign the child out using the attendance book and record the time.
- Wait for a staff member to dismiss your child.
- Be mindful of not distracting/speaking with staff until all of the children have departed.
- Be responsible for the supervision of your child once signed out, while still at the Bush Kinder site.

- Ensure your child has collected their belongings (bag, water, hat). Wet weather clothing provided by kinder are to be taken home.

### **Late collection fee policy:**

Parents/carers are asked to be at the bush kinder site by the session end time for collection of their child. At the end of session, staff members are required to pack up the site and tend to other responsibilities; they are not paid to care for children after the end of each session. Late collection fees apply if parents/carers arrive late for collection of a child, as per Maribyrnong Kindergarten late collection fee policy

***Please refer to main Delivery and Collection of Children Policy for full procedures relating to collection by authorised person, late collection and late collection fees.***

### **Clothing:**

Parents are required to determine appropriate clothing based on the weather forecast appropriate to their session time.

**Children will not be allowed to attend a Bush Kinder session if they arrive with inappropriate clothing and without suitable clothing to change into.**

It is important that Bush Kinder participants wear appropriate and protective clothing and footwear which:

- allows children to move freely and undertake activities such as climbing, balancing, running
- keeps children warm and dry in cold/wet weather
- protects children from the damaging effects of the sun, UV rays in warm weather and high UV conditions.
- prevents sunburn, bites, scratches and stings. *(Even in warm weather, long sleeve tops and long pants are recommended - this clothing should be loose fitting and light).*
- Where possible, clothing should be made from natural fabrics which allow the body to breathe and is comfortable against the skin
- In the case of footwear, it needs to keep feet and toes covered and have a flexible sole to allow children to climb and balance on uneven surfaces

**The following table provides examples of recommended clothing, clothing which is not recommended and unacceptable clothing:**

	<b>Warm Weather</b>	<b>Cold Weather / Rain</b>
<b>Recommended clothing and footwear</b>	Light loose fitting long sleeve tops and long pants, broad brimmed hat*, closed toe shoes	Wet Weather Gear*, long pants, long sleeved top, beanie*, waterproof gloves, thermals in very cold weather
<b>Not recommended</b>	short sleeved tops, shorts, skirts or dresses.	Skirts, dresses (incompatible with Rain sets)
<b>Unacceptable clothing and footwear</b>	Open toe shoes, sandals, thongs, crocs, singlet tops	Non-waterproof outer clothing. (A rainset on top of non-waterproof clothing is recommended).

**Change of clothes:** All children participating in Bush Kinder are required to bring a change of clothes and footwear as these may become wet and muddy. It is recommended that the spare clothing include:

- Spare top and bottoms of appropriate thickness/weight for the weather on the day
- Spare underpants (and singlet in winter)
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 pair of gumboots (it is not recommended that gumboots are worn at all times due to the restriction of movement they impose, however, they are necessary during the winter months).

On high UV days, please ensure that you apply sunscreen prior to the session commencing. Sunscreen is provided next to sign in book and will be available for re-application during sessions.

**Clothing provided by Kindergarten:** Wet weather clothing- light rainproof suit worn over clothing, which includes a jacket with a hood, and pants to wear over clothing (provided by the kinder on commencement of bush kinder program).

Bush Kinder identification with Maribyrnong Kindergarten contact mobile number will be provided by the Kindergarten. All children must wear the provided Bush Kinder identification

bracelet. This clearly identifies them as belonging to the kinder, without identifying them to strangers.

### **WHAT ELSE TO BRING**

**Water:** All participants are required to have a water bottle. Parents/carers are required to provide a bottle with fresh water each session. There will be access on site to supplement drinking water when required.

**Food:** Parents/carers are required to provide a snack in a sealed container for each session for their child to eat. We ask you to consider the environment by not including any packaging. We also ask that you consider the importance of a Healthy snack/lunch (eg. fruit/vegetable/sandwiches).

*Parents and children are asked not to bring toys along to Bush Kinder to better enable children to engage in the natural surrounds.*

### **Parent Involvement:**

As with home kinder, we strongly encourage support and involvement from parents and service users. A stay, play and learn roster will also be available for all Bush Kinder sessions. Each session we invite parents to stay, play and learn in the Bush kinder environment. Please place your name on the roster at home kinder if you would like to attend.

If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Bush Kinder Coordinator Connie Tonkin, by sending an email to [connie@maribyrnongkinder.com.au](mailto:connie@maribyrnongkinder.com.au) or email our Director Samantha Pascoe at [samantha@maribyrnongkinder.com.au](mailto:samantha@maribyrnongkinder.com.au) or discuss with one of your child's teachers.

We look forward to sharing the Bush Kinder experience with you all throughout 2019.