

## WHY IT MATTERS?

Several high-quality early childhood education services have come together to support the ACT initiative aimed at making early childhood education more accessible and highlighting its importance as a crucial step in a child's development.

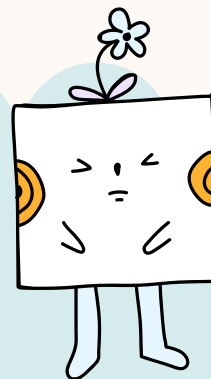
The Three-year-old preschool program provides funding to deliver free, quality preschool education to children aged 3 who are enrolled in a partnered early childhood education and care (ECEC) service in the ACT. The program supports access to 300 hours per year, per child of free preschool. Evidence shows that participation in a quality preschool program in the two years before formal school is associated with better outcomes for children.



We will be changing the structure between the two rooms to ensure that all our junior preschoolers & preschoolers have access to this funding. Maryia will be responsible for the teacher's position in that space, overseeing and implementing both curriculum and programs in partnership with the team leaders. The leadership position of the Kangaroos team will be assumed by Daniel, and that of the Joey's team by Romeo, as planned previously. Maryia will work across both rooms, primarily focusing on the Kangaroos room.



## AM I ELIGIBLE?



To be eligible for funding under the Three-year-old preschool program, a child must:

- ★ Be three-years-old on, or before 30 April 2024,
- ★ Be a resident of ACT
- ★ Enrol or be enrolled in a participating service.

## CONTACT US!

WVELC Team

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## What you need to know about

## 3-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL PROGRAM



# ABOUT OUR TEACHER

Maryia is a senior leader of our team and has been included in many initiatives based on her knowledge and experience. Maryia demonstrates her commitment to her role in how she consistently evaluates her practices, and those of her team and evolves her program to ensure that all children are supported to engage in experiences that set them up for success



Maryia has been working in an early childhood education and care settings for the past 7 years, she is currently studying double degree, that consists of primary and early childhood education. Maryia has been also nominated for multiple awards this year, including Youth Award & Hesta ECE Award.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Families who meet the eligibility criteria will be able to access early childhood education for a total of 300 hours. However, it is important to note that the funding provided does not cover the full cost of the service. The \$2500 funding allocated to each family will be spread across four quarters of the year. It is important to understand that the funding only covers 7.5 hours of care and education for 40 weeks and eligible families will still have to pay an out-of-pocket fee for the remaining hours.

As part of the pilot program, we are expected to complete multiple reports, as well as hold meetings and conduct interviews with families. Participation in any questionnaires, discussions, etc., is mandatory, as it is required for the successful implementation of this program.



It's crucial to understand that, despite the government's name for it, this is an opportunity for families to access funding for quality early childhood education. Our educational programs are of high quality every year, so the only distinction is that the qualified teachers within the Centre will design and deliver the program.

### START HERE

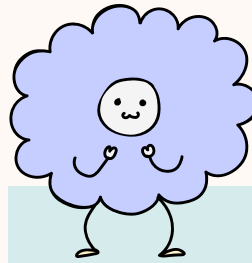
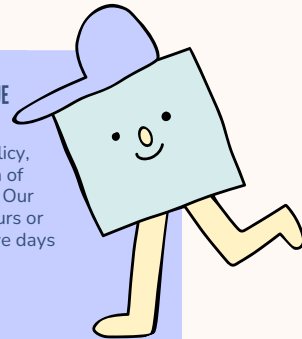
To learn more about the program

#### CAN I ACCESS THE PROGRAM IF I AM NOT ENTITLED TO CCS?

Yes, it is possible for families who are not receiving any benefits to access the program and receive funding. However, you need to have a CRN number for both parents and the child. Please note that if you are on a temporary visa, you won't be able to access the funding.

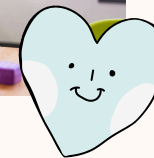
#### CAN I BOOK MY CHILD FOR ONE DAY OR SHORT HOURS?

No, according to the WVELC policy, children must attend a minimum of two consecutive days per week. Our care sessions are either 11.5 hours or 10 hours if your child attends five days per week.



#### CAN I ACCESS THE FUNDING IN MORE THAN ONE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE?

No, the funding can only be used by one approved service. Additionally, if your child attends a government preschool program, you cannot access the funding.



#### CAN I BOOK MY CHILD FOR AN ADDITIONAL DAY?

Yes, you need to specify if you wish for this day to be permanent or casual. Both options are subject to current availability.

#### WILL IT BE RIGOROUS? WILL MY CHILD LEARN TO READ AND WRITE?

Australian early childhood education and care curriculum is primarily designed to support play-based learning. The programs and provocations are structured in a way that encourages children to participate, but they are not forced to do so. It's important to note that a child before the age of 6 or 7 may not be fully ready to read or write. However, early literacy and numeracy skills are introduced to nursery-age children. It's important to understand that children shouldn't be expected to read or write by age 3. At school (in kindy), children will begin to learn sight words and phonetics, which will support their literacy development.

#### WILL THE CHILDREN STILL HAVE ACCESS TO NATURE-BASED PROGRAMS?

Absolutely, our service program is based on nature-based learning. Children will continue regular walks, garden visits, animal interactions, and garden care despite funding.