



Northern  
Schools  
Early Years

# THE NSEY BUZZ

*The Official Newsletter of Northern Schools Early Years*



**Love a life of  
learning and  
living!**

## Hello from our CEO

Firstly, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all of the children and families that have joined our learning community for this first time this year! Around 496 three-year-old children started kindergarten in January, and we have 1,291 children enrolled in our services overall this year. It's been great to see how quickly the children have settled into their kindergarten experience!

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to the new staff who have joined us this year, and welcome back to our existing staff. It was lovely to start the year with an Organisational Day that brought our whole team together to reconnect and commence the year by sharing professional learning, expectations, setting goals and discussing how to support wellbeing for our children and teams.

It was an exciting start to the year with the opening of our new Gladstone Views Kindergarten. We are pleased to partner with Principal Alex Mowat offering 3 and 4 year old kindergarten to the Gladstone Views community.

We ended the term on another high note by hosting some special international visitors at our Dallas Kindergarten. Mr Toshiya Nakamura, a Professor from the Department of Child Health and Education and his associates, visited to learn about our Kindergarten to Grade 6 model and how

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we support sustainability and continuity of learning for children in partnership with Dallas Brooks Community Primary School. Well done to the team for helping showcase what we do!

With best wishes for the school holidays,



**Sigi Hyett,  
Chief Executive  
Officer**

# Enrolments opening soon for 2027!

It's almost time to register for kindergarten in 2027! Merri-bek Council will open 3-year-old and 4-year-old registrations from Tuesday 1 April 2025. Hume Council accepts registrations at any time.

Remember, if your child is currently attending 3-year-old kindergarten, you must submit an enrolment registration to secure a place in a 4-year-old program for 2027. For those children attending 4-year old kindergarten who will go to school next year, you must enrol at the school. This does not happen automatically.

- To register for a 3 or 4-year old program in the City of Hume: [complete the Council registration form](#).
- To register for a 3 or 4-year-old program in the City of Merri-bek: [complete the Council registration form](#).
- Complete our online forms for [Rothschild Road Kindergarten](#) (Gisborne) or [Molesworth Street Kindergarten](#) (North Melbourne) contact the NSEYC Office on 9306 1662 or email us at [office@nseyc.org.au](mailto:office@nseyc.org.au).
- To register for long day care at Glenroy Hub Children's Centre, go to the [Merri-bek Council website](#) or call 9240 1111.

You can also pick up enrolment forms from our office, our kindergartens or school offices. If you need any assistance to register, please contact our office on 9306 1662.

For more information about our services, for help with enrolling, or any other queries please contact us on 9306 1662 or email [office@nseyc.org.au](mailto:office@nseyc.org.au) and we'll be happy to help!



## Important dates/events



- 19<sup>th</sup> March - Eid al Fitr (Islam)
- 28<sup>th</sup> March - Earth Hour
- 1<sup>st</sup> April - Passover (Jewish)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Good Friday (Christian)
- 5<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Sunday (Christian)
- 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> April - Orthodox Easter
- 12-18<sup>th</sup> May- National Families Week, Mental Health Awareness Week
- 26<sup>th</sup> May - National Sorry Day
- 26<sup>th</sup> May - Northern School Early Years Annual General Meeting
- 26-30<sup>th</sup> May - Eid al-Adha (Islam)
- 27<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June: National Reconciliation Week

## School term dates for 2026

Term 1	Wednesday 28 January - Thursday 2 April
Term 2	Monday 20 April - Friday 26 June
Term 3	Monday 13 July - Friday 18 September
Term 4	Monday 5 October - Friday 18 December

**Find out more about kindergarten in Victoria by watching this video...**





## NSEY Kindergarten handbooks for families and children



Did you know...

NSEY produces two useful handbooks for families at kindergarten:

- The Children's Kindergarten Handbook, which helps children understand what to expect at kindergarten (with lots of pictures!). Ask your teacher for a hard copy if you don't already have one, or view it on our website [here](#).
- The Family Kindergarten Handbook, which has practical information for families about starting and attending kindergarten. You can find this on our website [here](#).

## Inclusive Equipment Grants for NSEY Kindergartens

We are pleased to announce that we have been successful in our application for Inclusive Equipment grants across our kindergarten services, with thanks to the Victorian Government. Our kindergartens will receive \$10,000 worth of new equipment and resources aimed at supporting the inclusion and cultural safety of all children of all abilities and cultural backgrounds.



## Best Start, Best Life survey

We invite you to do a short survey, on behalf of the Victorian Department of Education. This survey is part of a review of the Best Start, Best Life (BSBL) reform to Victorian kindergarten.

The review is being done by Nous Group and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI). It looks at changes to Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, Free Kinder and Pre-Prep. The Victorian Department of Education is funding this review, which started in 2024 and will finish in 2026.

You can find out more and fill out the survey using this link:

[https://nousgroupau.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_d6h7M7zEcDXoJV4](https://nousgroupau.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d6h7M7zEcDXoJV4)





## NSEY Organisational Day

Each year at NSEY we start the year with an Organisational Day to provide our teams with an overview of our K-6 model and management support structure, set out expectations and plan for the year ahead, and share professional learning to support best practice.

Early childhood teachers, educators and Family Support Workers from all 19 of our education and care services joined our management and administration team for a whole day of inspiring and thought-provoking presentations and workshops.

These included:

- An overview of the NSEY model and expectations for our learning programs
- A workshop on 'Supportive Teams for Enhanced Wellbeing' led by Nicole Lees from BeYou
- A session on 'Supporting Social Emotions and Physical Regulation of Children' led by Robyn Papworth.

It was wonderful to see our teams engage so deeply in the content of these sessions and embrace all of the learning opportunities.

***Huge thanks to all of our presenters, and to our administration and management teams who worked hard behind the scenes to make it all happen!***



Above: Nicole Lees from Be You

## New kindergarten at Gladstone Views Primary School

This year we commenced a new kindergarten program at Gladstone Views Primary School, led by one of our experienced teachers, Cathy Evangelista. We are excited to be partnering with Principal Alex Mowat to deliver free early learning for 3 and 4-year-old children in the Gladstone Views community!

The new kindergarten building is still under construction (now due for completion in late 2026) so the program is temporarily operating from within the primary school.





## International visitors at Dallas Kindergarten



Recently at our Dallas Kindergarten we were honoured and excited to host an international delegation from Tokuha University, Japan!

Mr Toshiya Nakamura, a Professor from the Department of Child Health and Education and his associates, visited to learn about our Kindergarten to Grade 6 model and how we support continuity of learning for children in partnership with Dallas Brooks Community Primary School.



Along with Sigi (our CEO), Val (Principal of the primary School), our teachers Shelby and Navneet proudly showed the Japanese delegates our learning spaces and the Foundation classrooms, and explained key aspects of our programs. We also visited the primary school's beautiful "Frog Bog" wetland.

The delegates were particularly interested in how we support children's identity and agency, (including supporting their first language through our Arabic program), how we teach children about sustainability, and how we support continuity of learning as children move into the school environment.



We presented Mr Nakamura with a signed copy of Louise Dorrat and Anthony Semann's brilliant new book "I am me, you are you", which celebrates identity, difference, and belonging.

Thank you to the Department of Education for the opportunity and to the Dallas Kindergarten and Primary School teams for helping to showcase what we do!



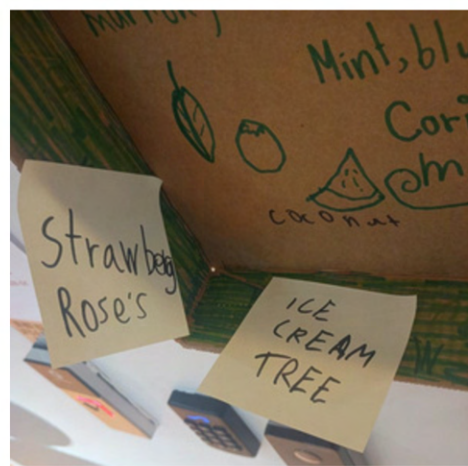


## Autumn gardening at kindergarten

Growing vegetables at kindergarten is a rewarding, hands-on experience that helps foster our connection with nature, promotes healthy eating habits, and encourages patience as we wait for things to grow! Children learn about plant life cycles, ecosystems, the importance of water and sunlight, and the role of soil. They understand the concepts of sustainability by observing natural processes and sometimes reusing waste. Children engage their senses through textures, smells, and colors in the garden. They build on mathematical concepts (counting seeds, measuring growth) and problem-solving skills (observing plant health, dealing with bugs), and are encouraged to try new healthy foods!

Lots of our kindergartens have vegetable gardens in their outdoor learning spaces. Thanks to the teams from Molesworth Street Kindergarten who have kindly shared some photos from their gardening projects!

*Right: The team at Molesworth Street Kindergarten are getting children and families to help decide what to grown in their community "kinder garden". Suggestions so far include coconut, strawberry roses, and an icecream tree!*



*Left and below: The 3 and 4-year-old groups at Glenroy Central Kindergarten have been planting seedlings in their vegetable gardens, and will be in charge of tending to the garden as it grows. Imagine how excited they'll be to pick the vegetables in a few months!*



# Information for parents and carers about the Child Safe Standards

## Child safe organisations

When your child is in the care of an organisation you want to know that they will be safe from abuse. The Child Safe Standards are designed to prevent child abuse in organisations.

The Child Safe Standards apply to over 50,000 Victorian organisations that provide services or facilities for children. These include:

- schools and outside school hours care
- kindergartens and early learning centres
- sporting clubs and recreational groups
- coaching or tuition services
- out of home care services
- local councils
- religious and faith-based organisations
- hospitals, health and disability services
- professional babysitting services
- overnight camps for children.

You can find a full list of the types of organisations that must meet the Child Safe Standards at [www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/who-do-the-standards-apply-to-page](http://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/who-do-the-standards-apply-to-page)

## How do the Child Safe Standards protect my child?

The Standards require organisations to take actions in a range of areas, including:

- background and suitability checks of staff and volunteers
- codes of conduct for staff and volunteers
- training and supervision of staff and volunteers
- documented risk assessments for activities
- clear procedures for reporting and acting on any concerns or allegations
- commitment to listening to children and encouraging them to speak up if they don't feel safe.

**Children have a right to be safe. Organisations have a responsibility to protect children from harm.**



## How do I know if an organisation is meeting the Child Safe Standards?

You can look on their website or talk to the staff. The organisation should have documents like:

- Child Safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety
- Code of Conduct for workers and volunteers
- information about how to raise safety concerns.

Some questions you could ask include:

- What are you doing to meet the Child Safe Standards?
- Do you have risk assessments for activities?
- Do your staff and volunteers have appropriate checks, training and supervision?
- What are you doing to encourage children to speak up if they feel unsafe?
- Who can I talk to in the organisation if I have a concern or complaint?
- What is the process if I raise a concern or complaint about child safety?

**You have a right to talk to organisations about how they are keeping your child safe from abuse. If you are concerned that an organisation is not keeping all children safe or is not meeting the Child Safe Standards, take action.**

## What can I do if I am not sure my child is safe?

Take action if you are concerned that an organisation is not keeping your child or other children safe.

Talk to someone senior at the organisation. Tell them what you are worried about and try to find a solution together.

If the organisation does not address your concerns, contact their regulator. If you are unsure who the regulator is, you can contact the Commission. The Commission has information about regulators because we work with them to ensure compliance by all organisations with the Standards.

## How do I ask my child if they feel safe?

Below are some examples of questions you can ask your child, changing the wording depending on your child's age.

- Do you know that you should always feel safe, no matter where you are?
- What do you like about *[the organisation]*? Is there anything you don't like?
- Have you ever felt uncomfortable, worried or not safe? Who would you talk to if you feel unsafe?
- Has anyone at *[the organisation]* ever talked to you about what they can do to make you feel safe?
- Do the staff listen to you and the other children?
- What do you hope will happen if you tell someone you don't feel safe?

### Contact the Commission for further information or to talk about the Child Safe Standards:

- Telephone us on 1300 782 978 or (03) 8601 5281
- Email us at [contact@ccyp.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@ccyp.vic.gov.au)
- Visit the Commission's website: [www.ccyp.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au)

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50 and ask them to contact the Commission for Children and Young People on (03) 8601 5281.