



Parent Information  
Handbook  
2026



## Acknowledgement of Country

Gurumba bigi, we acknowledge the Turrbal and Yuggera people as the First Nations owners of the land where The Nest now stands. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging. We recognise that these lands have always been places of teaching, playing and learning.





# Welcome

The Nest is nestled in the peaceful suburb of Anstead, surrounded by natural bushland and local wildlife. Our service is conveniently accessed via the Mount Crosby Service Road and offers a calm, home-like setting where children feel safe, connected, and ready to learn. We accept enrolments for children aged 2.5–6 years and proudly offer a unique, boutique kindergarten program unlike any other in our area. As a small owner-operated service with a licensed capacity of 19 children, we are able to provide a highly personalised, relationship-based program where every child is truly seen, heard, and supported. Our inquiry-based approach encourages children to wonder, question, investigate, and make meaningful real-life connections. Through hands-on exploration and rich project work, children develop problem-solving skills, creativity, resilience, and confidence. Throughout the year, children have opportunities to participate in special productions, long-term investigations, and collaborative projects that extend their learning beyond the classroom and into their homes, families, and the wider community. At The Nest, learning is joyful, purposeful, and deeply rooted in the belief that children thrive when they are nurtured in an environment that respects their individuality and supports their curiosity.



# Our Preschool

Welcome to The Nest, we are a proudly owner-operated service, offering a warm, family-centred environment where children feel safe, valued, and inspired to learn.

As a small boutique preschool, we specialise in providing a nurturing atmosphere where every child is truly known as an individual.

We intentionally maintain small group sizes and high ratios of qualified, experienced educators, because we believe children learn best when they receive meaningful one-on-one interactions. This personalised approach supports children to feel confident, secure, and ready to explore.

Our program goes beyond traditional learning. Through rich, hands-on experiences and long-term, meaningful projects, children build knowledge and skills that extend well beyond the preschool environment.

We aim to empower children to contribute to their community, develop independence, and continue their learning at home.

At The Nest, we strive to create a place that feels like a second home—a place where children's curiosity leads the way, families feel supported, and learning is joyful, purposeful, and deeply connected to real life.





# Operating Information

Child Age	Programs	License	Subsidies
2.5 years to school age	<p>Early Years Learning Framework</p> <p>Queensland Kindergarten Program</p> <p>Free Kindy</p> <p>Fundamental Movement Skills Program</p>	<p><b>Approval number:</b> PR-40029053</p> <p><b>Service number:</b> SE-00001818</p> <p><b>CCS approval:</b> 1900582 79B</p> <p><b>National Quality Standard:</b> Meeting</p>	<p>Child Care Subsidy</p> <p>Free Kindy</p>

Operating Hours	Daily Fee (recurring booking)	Casual Fee	Capacity
Monday to Friday 7.30am – 5pm	\$128	\$138 (Available for short-notice or once-off bookings)	19 Children





# Curriculum

## **Letter and Number Recognition**

Introducing early literacy and numeracy through songs, stories, games and hands-on activities.

## **Literacy and Communication**

Building vocabulary, early reading/writing skills, storytelling, conversation and phonological awareness.

## **Science and Mathematical Concepts**

Exploring measuring, comparing, predicting, experimenting and problem-solving through inquiry and play.

## **Technology Skills**

Developing early ICT confidence using age-appropriate digital tools, promoting safe and responsible use.

## **Social and Emotional Wellbeing**

Supporting emotional regulation, resilience, cooperation, confidence, friendships and a strong sense of belonging.

## **Creative Arts**

Encouraging expression through drawing, painting, music, dance, drama, construction and imaginative play.

## **Inquiry-Based Learning**

Nurturing curiosity and critical thinking as children investigate, question, hypothesise and explore the world around them.

## **Nature Play**

Immersing children in outdoor learning experiences using natural spaces in our Anstead environment.

## **Risky Play**

Providing supported opportunities for adventurous play that builds confidence, resilience and spatial awareness.

## **Fundamental Movement Skills**

Enhancing coordination, balance, strength, flexibility and gross motor skills through active outdoor play.

## **Gardening and Cooking**

Engaging children in planting, harvesting, preparing food and learning about healthy eating and sustainability.

## **Sustainability and the Environment**

Fostering environmental responsibility through recycling, composting, caring for nature and understanding ecosystems.



# A Day at The Nest

Morning	Middle	Afternoon
<p><b>7.30am - 8am:</b> Early starters arrive and join children directed play activities</p> <p><b>8am - 9.30am:</b> Children arrive and join child directed play activities</p> <p>(we go outside earlier in warmer weather and later in cooler weather)</p> <p><b>9.30am</b> Morning Tea</p>	<p><b>10am - 10.30am:</b> Teacher guided morning time. Literacy and Mathematical concepts</p> <p><b>10.30am - 11am:</b> Fundamental movement skills, outside activities and games</p> <p>(we go outside earlier in warmer weather and later in cooler weather)</p> <p><b>11am - 12.30pm:</b> Teacher guided play based inquiry learning and projects</p>	<p><b>12.30pm - 1pm:</b> Lunch time</p> <p><b>1pm - 2pm:</b> Rest time</p> <p><b>2pm - 2.30pm:</b> Afternoon Tea</p> <p><b>2.30pm - 3pm</b> Teacher guided literacy (story telling, songs, visual literacy, drama, Show and tell)</p> <p><b>3pm - 3.30pm:</b> Afternoon Tea</p> <p><b>4pm - 5pm:</b> Child led activities</p>



# The Nest Performances

Throughout the year, children participate in both a mid-year and an end-of-year production. These special performances are an integral part of our program and offer children valuable opportunities to express themselves in creative and meaningful ways.

Participation in productions helps children develop:

- **Confidence and self-esteem**
- **Communication and performance skills**
- **Creativity and imagination**
- **Teamwork and cooperation**
- **A sense of accomplishment and pride**

Our productions are a much-loved highlight for families and children alike. They provide a joyful celebration of learning, creativity and community—something we all look forward to each year.





# Meaningful Projects

At The Nest, we engage children in **meaningful long-term projects** throughout the year.

These projects help children explore ideas deeply, work collaboratively, and apply their learning to real-world situations.

Through project work, children develop:

- **Problem-solving and critical thinking skills**
- **Creativity, design and construction abilities**
- **Confidence in planning, building, and experimenting**
- **Fine and gross motor skills through hands-on work**
- **A strong sense of purpose and pride in their achievements**

Meaningful projects allow children to see themselves as capable learners and creators. They connect learning to daily life, strengthen independence, and encourage children to ask questions, investigate and bring their ideas to life.





# Fundamental Movement Skills Program

At The Nest, we use the **Franky and Friends Fundamental Movement Skills Program** to support and enhance children's physical development. This evidence-based program introduces children to the essential skills that build confidence, coordination, body awareness and lifelong healthy habits.

The program focuses on teaching **13 core movement skills**:

These skills form the foundation for future sporting activities, physical fitness, balance, strength and gross motor coordination. Through playful, engaging activities and games, children learn to challenge themselves, practise new skills and enjoy being active.

Locomotor Skills	Object-Control Skills
Jumping Running Galloping Hopping Leaping Skipping Side-sliding	Catching Stationary Dribble Striking Kicking Underarm Throw Overarm Throw



For more information about the program, visit:

<https://healthykids.nsw.gov.au/downloads/file/campaignsprogram/FrankyFriendsFMS.pdf>

(NSW Healthy Kids – Franky & Friends Program)



# Our Playground Philosophy

Our playground philosophy is to keep the outside space open and available to be able to create new experiences and challenges for the children to explore.

Our playground is a blank canvas that can be transformed into any exciting imaginary environment such as an obstacle course, a search and rescue mission, an emergency service network, a hide and seek fort, a bike track and many other wonderful discoveries.

The space allows children to engage in a variety of risky, creative and natural play experiences.





# Preschool Philosophy

We connect with families as we welcome them into our learning space each morning. It is during this interaction that families and teachers can gain a deeper understanding of the needs of individual children. We provide an inclusive environment, and our preschool promotes Indigenous culture, additional needs and cultural diversity. We ensure that our services are accessible and equitable for all users. We create a safe and inviting atmosphere where we nurture every child's uniqueness and curiosity. Our educators set up stimulating spaces and inquiries that ignite discovery, imagination, and exploration. We use a wide variety of natural, recycled, open-ended and quality education resources for children to explore and experiment with.

We expose children to core curriculum and active, sensory, and creative experiences that promote their personal progress. Our preschool highly values respect and responsibility and we embed these values into all interactions with the children. We encourage risk taking, problem solving and personal independence in a controlled and safe environment. Our teachers model positive relationships with the children and support positive interactions from child to child. We believe that kindness, empathy, and fairness need to be taught so that children have the skills to maintain healthy relationships now and





in their future. We respectfully acknowledge the rights of the child and advocate for their safety and wellbeing.






Our Preschool adopts reflective practices to continually make improvements to our service. We work in partnerships with staff, families, and our local community to provide a service that is valued by all. The staff employed at our preschool are highly qualified and demonstrate ongoing training to strive to provide quality services. We aim to always maintain the continuity of educators so that children feel safe and secure and staff are able to confidently follow all policies and procedures. Our staff conduct themselves professionally and ethically and are positive role models for the families who use our service.





# Staff

Our staff are highly experienced, dedicated and passionate about achieving the best outcomes for all children. They offer an individualised program which supports each child's ability, potential and needs.

Name	Position	Qualification
Marianne Wilkinson 	Director Educational Leader Approved Provider Nominated Supervisor	Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies / Primary Education Provider Approval Service Approval CCS Approval
Ian Wilkinson 	Approved Provider	Provider Approval Service Approval CCS Approval
Naya Liu 	Responsible Person Educator	Diploma of Children's Services - Early Education and Care
Tanya Prakapiuk 	Responsible Person Educator	Diploma of Children's Services - Early Education and Care
Cintia Nunez 	Educator	Diploma of Children's Services - Early Education and Care



# Fees

Operating Hours	Daily Fee (recurring booking)	Casual Fee	Capacity
Monday to Friday 7.30am – 5pm	\$128	\$138 (Available for short-notice or once-off bookings)	19 Children

The Nest is **Child Care Subsidy (CCS)** approved, and eligible families may receive government subsidies to reduce their out-of-pocket fees. Our preschool also provides a **Queensland Kindergarten Approved Program**, meaning families may be entitled to 40 weeks of **'Free Kindy'** funding (please note: Free Kindy covers up to **5 hours per day only**).

All enrolments, billing and statements are managed through **OWNA**. Invoices are issued through the OWNA platform, and all payments are processed via **Weekly Direct Debit**.



Upon enrolment, the following fees apply:

**Administration Fee:** \$20 (non-refundable)

**Security Deposit:** \$200 (refunded at the end of enrolment, provided all accounts are finalised)

Families can download the **OWNA App** (iOS or Android) to access real-time information about their child and their account.



# Preschool Hours

**Standard Hours of Care:** 7:30am – 5:00pm

**Eligible Age:** 2.5 – School Age

**Closing Time:** All children must be collected **before 5:00pm.**

Late collection fees apply.

The preschool operates **50 weeks per year.**

We are closed:

- All **Queensland Public Holidays**
- **2-week period** in late December / early January

Exact closure dates are communicated to families in advance each year.





# Attendance

To participate fully in our curriculum—including special projects, productions and our kindergarten program—children must attend a **minimum of 2 days per week**.

If your child is unwell, they may be excluded from care in accordance with the **Queensland Health “Time Out” Guidelines** for infectious conditions. We are committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all children.

Families must notify the preschool of any absence to support our duty of care obligations.

Please note:

•**All absences are charged**, including:

- Illness
- Family holidays
- Early completion of the school year
- Personal decisions to withdraw attendance on particular days

This ensures that educators, resources and ratios remain consistently available for enrolled children





# What to Bring

Backpack	
Wide Brim Hat	
Sunglasses	
Suitable Clothing (no dresses please)	
Spare Clothes	



Runners and Socks	
Water Bottle	
Single Bed Size Sheet	
Healthy Morning Tea and Afternoon Tea	
Healthy Lunch  All food must be in line with the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating	
<p><b>Please remember to clearly label every item you send to preschool so that your child's belongings can be returned and distributed when necessary.</b></p>	



# Healthy Eating

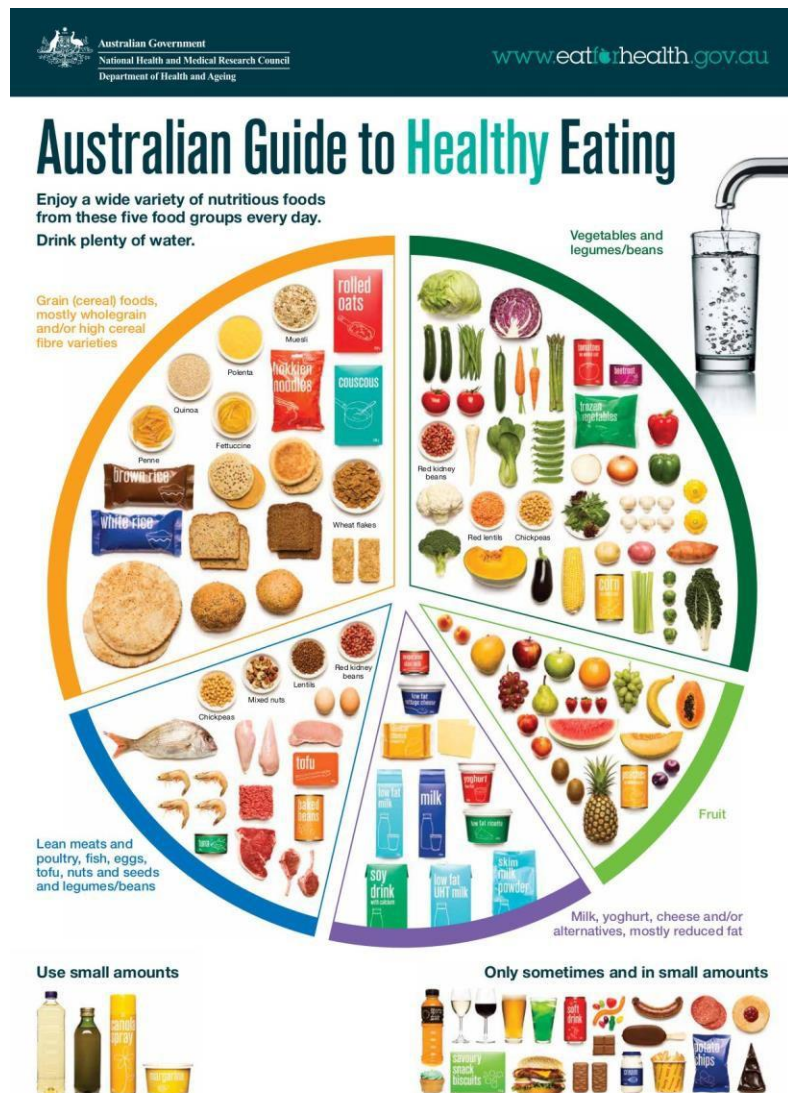
The Nest follows **the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating** to support children's health, wellbeing and development. We encourage families to pack nutritious meals that fuel children's learning, concentration and energy throughout the day.

We ask that all foods provided for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea align with the recommendations in the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating.

This includes a focus on:

- **Fresh fruits and vegetables**
- **Wholegrains and high-fibre foods**
- **Lean proteins**
- **Dairy or calcium-rich alternatives**
- **Healthy snacks that are low in added sugar and salt**

Using this guide ensures that children receive balanced nutrition and helps develop lifelong healthy eating habits. If you would like support with lunchbox ideas or understanding the guide, we are always available to help.





# Contact Us

**Director/Owner:** Marianne Wilkinson

**Phone:** (07) 3202 9420

**Mobile:** 0488 354 160

**Address:** 457 Mount Crosby Road, Anstead QLD 4070

**Email:** [yedp@outlook.com.au](mailto:yedp@outlook.com.au)

**Website:** <https://www.yedp.com.au>

**ABN:** 25 773 182 711



**You can also find us on:**

