BUSH KINDER POLICY

Best Practice – Quality Area 1

PURPOSE

Children are natural learners. Bush Kinder will provide children with the time and an ideal environment for them to learn in and will be a special part of your child's kinder experience.

Each child's developmental progression, advancing skill levels and particular interests will be noted by their teachers. The teachers will use this knowledge to support the children's learning as they do in all kinder sessions.

The teachers will support the children as they take the risks and face challenges essential to their learning.

VALUES

CKCC is committed to:

- Taking every reasonable precaution to protect children being educated and cared for by the service from harm and any hazard.
- Supervise children adequately at all times.
- To meet the educational and developmental need of the children.

SCOPE

The Bush Kinder educational program will be planned, documented and delivered to children attending. The program enhances the children's learning and development and is based on an approved learning framework. This policy applies to parents, educators, committee members, authorised persons and students.

BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Selecting the bush kinder site:

CKCC will take into account below factors when selecting a bush kinder site:

- Distance from the centre that may impact the method of transportation.
- Ensure adequate pick up and drop off areas.
- Natural boundaries of the site.
- Range of natural elements which can integrate into the educational program and practice.
- Distance from large bodies of water.
- Any hazards at the site and ways of addressing these hazards.
- Adequate surveillance and lines of sight for educator's supervision.
- Parkland management support.
- Access for children with disability or mobility issues.
- Shelter facilities in case of extreme weather condition if the chosen site is some distance from the service.

Delivery and collection of children

The children will be leaving the centre as a group with the teachers and volunteers (parent). They will leave/return the centre by public transport.

BUSH KINDER SITE:

Wattle Park, Riversdale Road, Burwood.

Transportation:

Tram No.70 (get on-stop 43 Trafalgar Road/ Get off- stop 61 Elgar Road/ Riversdale Road-last stop.

Time: 9.00am till approximately 2.30pm.

DEFINITIONS

Authorisation for the bush kinder outing.

An authorisation form is given to the parents at the beginning of each year that includes the bush kinder and excursions. The teacher will inform the parents of the time, purpose and location of the outing.

Adequate supervision: (In relation to this policy) **supervision** entails all children (individuals and groups) in all areas of the service, being in sight and/or hearing of an educator at all times including during toileting, sleep, rest and transition routines. Services are required to comply with the legislative requirements for educator-to-child ratios at all times. Supervision contributes to protecting children from hazards that may emerge in play, including hazards created by the equipment used.

Adequate supervision refers to constant, active and diligent supervision of every child at the service. Adequate supervision requires that educators are always in a position to observe each child, respond to individual needs and immediately intervene if necessary. Variables affecting supervision levels include:

- Number, age and abilities of children.
- Number and positioning of educators.
- Current activity of each child.
- Areas in which the children are engaged in an activity (visibility and accessibility).
- Developmental profile of each child and of the group of children.
- Experience, knowledge and skill of each educator.
- Need for educators to move between areas (effective communication strategies).

Approved learning framework: A document that outlines practices that educators and co-ordinators must use to support and promote children's learning. The *Early Years Learning Framework (Belonging, Being & Becoming)* and the *Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework* are approved learning frameworks for use in Victoria (refer to *Sources*).

Learning: A natural process of exploration that children engage in from birth, as they expand their intellectual, physical, social, emotional and creative capacities. Early learning is closely linked to early development.

Learning framework: Refer to approved learning framework above.

Learning outcome: A skill, knowledge or disposition that educators can actively promote in early childhood settings, in collaboration with children and families.

Learning relationships: Relationships that further children's learning and development. Both adult and child have intent to learn from one another.

Play-based learning: A context for learning through which children organise and make sense of their social world as they engage actively with people, objects and representations.

Ratio: 2x teachers and 1x volunteer parent - 11 children (1:4). The children who aren't attending on that day, they can be companied with their parents and go home after the bush kinder.

Requirements:

- Children: myki cards, own lunch, water, wearing appropriate clothes, for bush walking/outdoor play, trousers, long sleeve shirts, comfortable closed in/waterproof shoes, spare clothes, hats, rain gear (depending on weather condition).
- Teachers: First Aid kits, children's medication and minimisation risk management (Epipen, Asthma pump), families' contact list, accident form, paper towels, wet wipes, disposable gloves, mobile phone, hats, sunscreen (summer), rain gear.

Weather Condition:

- Risk assessment will be done before the program.
- The children will be going on the bush excursion in most all-weather conditions.
- When the temperature is 30 degrees or over the children will leave the centre by 8.30am and return by 1.00-1.30pm to avoid heat.
- Bush kinder will be cancelled on a stormy day.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010.*
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*: Regulations 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 123, 355, 357, 360.
- *National Quality Standard*, Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice.
  - Standard 1.1: An approved learning framework informs the development of a curriculum that enhances each child's learning and development.
    - Element 1.1.3: The program, including routines, is organised in ways that maximise opportunities for each child's learning.
    - Element 1.1.5: Every child is supported to participate in the program.
- *National Quality Standard*, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety.
  - Standard 2.3: Each child is protected.
    - Element 2.3.1: Children are adequately supervised at all times.
    - Element 2.3.2: Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/
- Commonwealth Legislation – ComLaw: http://www.comlaw.gov.au/

The excursions to bush kinder site is regarded as an excursion and staff-child ratio must be followed.

Delivering the program at the bush kinder site.

Ratios and qualifications	Educator to child ratios must be met whenever children are being educated and cared for including outside an education and care service (section 169, regulation 123(1)(c). At least 50 per cent of the educators required to meet the relevant educator to child ratios must have, or be actively working towards, at least one approved diploma level education and care qualification (regulation 126(1)(a). All other educators required to meet the relevant educator to child ratios for the

	service must have, or be actively working towards, at least an approved certificate III level education and care qualification (regulation 126(1)(b). Consideration must be given, as part of the risk assessment of the bush kinder as a regular outing (regulation 101(2)(f), as to whether educator to child ratios will need to be higher than the prescribed requirement (section 169) and/or other responsible adults will be required to ensure that adequate supervision of children is maintained at all times.
First aid requirements	The following persons must be in attendance at any place where children are being educated and cared for by the service: • at least one educator with a current approved first aid qualification; and • at least one educator with current approved anaphylaxis management training; and • at least one educator with current approved emergency asthma management training (regulation 136(1).
Toilet and facilities	Adequate toilet, washing and drying facilities must be provided for safe use by children (regulation 109) including additional water for hand washing.
Food and beverages	Children must have access to safe drinking water, including additional water for drinking on high temperature days. Children bring their own food or the centre will provide appropriate food for the children who have forgotten to bring their own (regulation 78).
Sun protection	Sun safe and protective clothing should be available for each child. Sunscreen and sun hats should also be used (section 167, regulation 168).
Administration of medication	If a child has a specific health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition a medical management plan and risk minimisation plan must be developed or modified outlining the process to be followed in the event of an incident related to the child's specific health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition arises when the child is attending the bush kinder (regulation 90). Emergency plans must be in place, which allow each child to be easily removed from the bush kinder site in the case of an emergency (regulation 97). Risk minimisation plans must take into account such matters as keeping medication at the required temperature and ensuring it is not accessible to children.
Items to take to the bush kinder to address incident, injury and trauma	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures of the centre must be followed at the bush kinder. When children attend a bush kinder program, the following items must be taken with educators: • An appropriate number of suitably equipped first aid kits which must be portable and readily accessible (regulation 89). • An operating mobile telephone with an appropriate telephone network;

	(regulation 98). • The contact information of any person who is to be notified of any incident, injury, trauma or illness involving the child and the child's registered medical practitioner or medical service (regulations 85-87).

SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Sources

- *Belonging, Being & Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*: http://education.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework
- *Educators' Guide to the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*: http://education.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework
- *Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*, ACECQA: www.acecqa.gov.au
- *Guide to the National Quality Standard*, ACECQA: www.acecqa.gov.au
- *National Quality Standard Professional Learning Program*: www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp
- *Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework*: www.education.vic.gov.au/earlylearning/eyldf/default.htm
- *Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework* – Resources for Professionals: www.education.vic.gov.au/earlylearning/eyldf/profresources.htm
- Education and Training fact sheet Bush Kinder.
- National Quality Framework, Bush Kinder

Service policies

- *Code of Conduct Policy.*
- *Environmental Sustainability Policy.*
- *Inclusion and Equity Policy.*
- *Interactions with Children Policy.*
- *Nutrition and Active Play Policy.*
- *Participation of Volunteers and Students Policy*
- *Road Safety and Safe Transport Policy.*
- *Sun Protection Policy.*
- *Supervision of Children Policy.*
- *Water Safety Policy.*

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- Regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness.
- Monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy.
- Keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice.
- Revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required.
- Notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Camberwell Kindergarten and Child Care Centre Inc. on 04/05/2019.

REVIEW DATE: 04/05/2021

Reviewed annually or requested.

parknotes

Wattle Park

Visitor Guide

Wattle Park is a very popular metropolitan park that has a blend of historic buildings, picnic grounds, recreational facilities and natural bush spread over 55 hectares. Huge gum trees, wattles, seasonal wildflowers and ponds are all significant features. The beautiful historic Chalet, available for function bookings, is set among exotic trees and sweeping lawns. For a great escape within the suburbs, this is the place to visit.

Location & access

Vehicle access is from Riversdale Rd (Melway 60 J2). Enter by foot from Riversdale Rd, Warrigal Rd, Patterson Ave or Elgar Rd.

The toilets and most paths in the park are accessible for visitors with limited mobility.

Other large nearby Parks Victoria managed parks with extensive facilities and good access include Jells, Yarra Ben and Westerfolds (see overleaf for Melways references).

Things to see & do

Wattle Park is an excellent location for a variety of activities from jogging to bird watching, golf to cricket. Meet for a picnic or barbecue and in the warmer months you may see the Melbourne Tramways Band playing on a Sunday afternoon. Children can even enjoy being a tram conductor in one of the old trams.

The nine hole public golf course is a lovely setting to practice your swing. There are also three tennis courts. For booking information for golf or tennis phone 9808 2455.

Visit the filtration ponds alongside Damper Creek and see ducks and frogs amongst the native rushes. Immerse yourself in the history and nature of the park.

If you would like to help look after the park, why not join the Friends of Wattle Park? Ask the Rangers how or call 13 1963.

Brown Tree Frog ©MT

Flora & fauna

Despite the urban surroundings of Wattle Park, there's a surprising diversity of flora and fauna within its boundaries. Three "locally significant" animal species are the Musk Lorikeet, Weasel Skink and Southern Bullfrog. There are some 50 bird species including the White-faced Heron, Rainbow Lorikeet and Tawny Frogmouth. The park's mammal species include several types of bats and possums.

There are 20 species of butterflies and 60 species of beetles in the park. To protect these small residents, regeneration of native habitat plants like grasses and wattles are encouraged. In spring the eastern slope is alive with orchids and other wildflowers.

The conservation zone, in the eastern half of the park, plays a very important role in protecting the indigenous flora and fauna.

The chalet

Enjoy the charm and splendour of the heritage protected Wattle Park Chalet, a quaint European-style establishment built in 1928. The building has long history as all the materials were second hand. Bricks came from demolished cable tram engine house chimneys, heavy timers from cable trams sheds, and roof slates from the demolished Yarra Bend Asylum.

The Chalet is a popular venue for receptions, functions, meetings and Sunday luncheon. For bookings and enquiries phone Provincial Events at Wattle Park Chalet on 9808 0122.

Dogs on leads

To help protect the wildlife and for the comfort of other visitors, please keep your dog on a lead at all times in all areas of the park. Also don't forget to clean up after your dog.

For more information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963
or visit our website at www.parks.vic.gov.au

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Parks VICTORIA

Other parks to visit in the area:

Jells Park	(Melway 72 A10 & 71 K6)
Braeside Park	(Melway 88 D8)
Yarra Bend	(Melway 45 A1)
Westerfolds Park	(Melway 33 E1)

Wattle Park

- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Multi-Purpose Track
- Park Area
- Park Conservation Area
- Golf Course Management Area
- Water Body
- Restricted Access Area
- Nature & Heritage Trail
- Barbecues
- Car Park
- Disabled Access Toilet
- Heritage Shelter
- Information
- Pedestrian Access
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Toilets
- Tram Shelter

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0 50 100 150
Metres M/6843

Parks Victoria © Map updated October 2004

Caring for the environment

Help us look after this park by remembering these guidelines:

Take **all** rubbish home with you

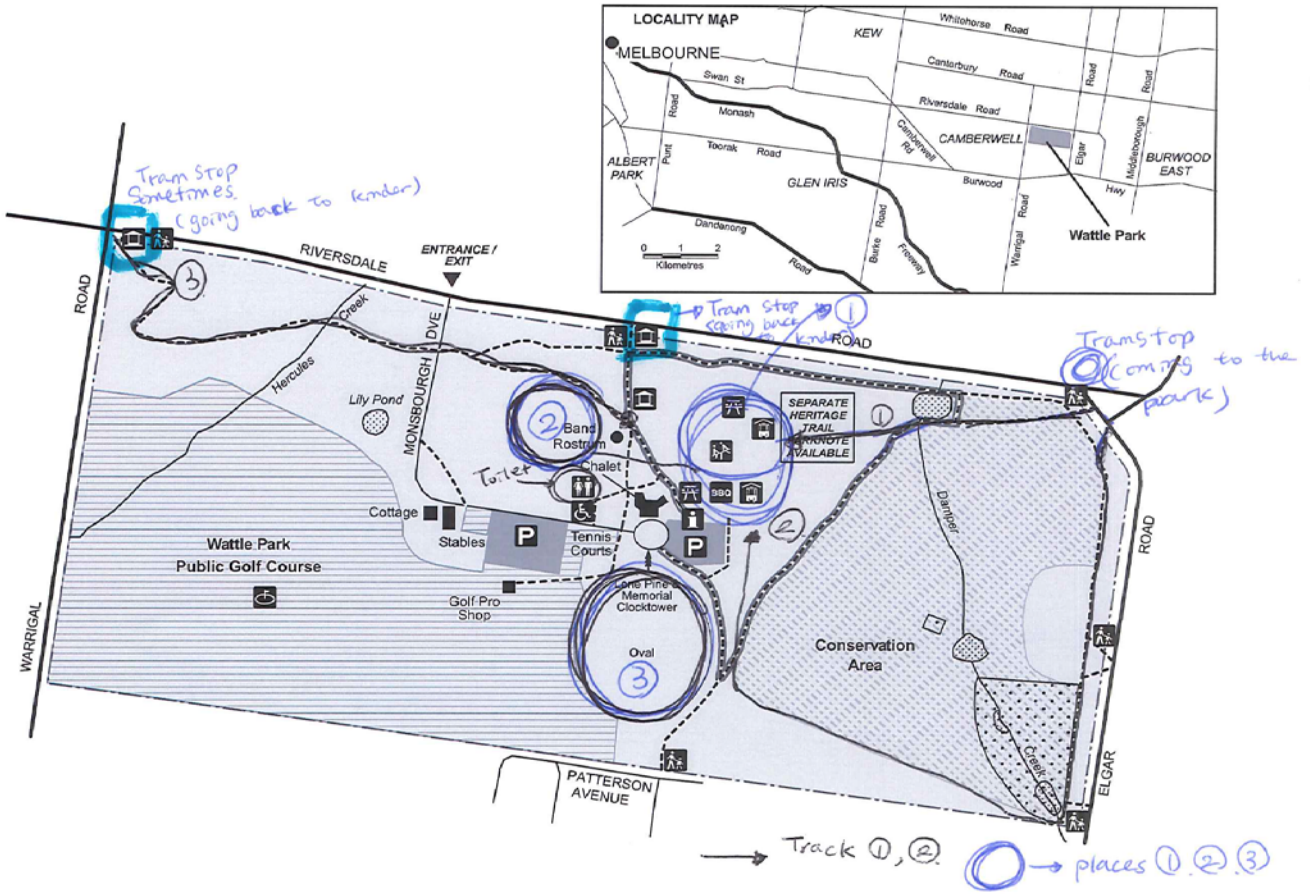
Dogs are permitted in Wattle Park, but must be kept on a leash at all times. Please clean up after your dog

All native plants and animals are protected

Solid fuel barbecues are not permitted anywhere within the park. Portable gas barbecues are only permitted in the picnic areas

No fires, including gas barbecues, may be lit on a day of **Total Fire Ban**

Please don't throw this park note away. Keep it, return it for others to use, or recycle it

Updated July 2012

Victoria