



Parent Information

WELCOME

Welcome to Darling Downs Christian School (DDCS) and thank you for choosing DDCS Kindergarten. For some children it may be the first time away from their home environment and at DDCS we understand that for parents, selecting the right Kindergarten for your child is a very important decision. Please be assured that you have chosen a school that believes in providing a loving, caring Christian environment where the social, emotional, physical and intellectual development of each child is allowed to progress at its own rate.

At DDCS, we aim to provide the highest quality care and education and endeavour to partner closely with parents in the education process. Please take the time to read this booklet as the information will help you and your child to settle in more quickly. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Kindergarten teacher who will be happy to answer your questions.

HOURS OF OPERATION

- The Kindergarten operates Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during the school term.
- **The program runs from 8:35 to 3:00pm.**
- **Doors open at 8:20am** and parents will have approximately 15 minutes to settle their child before the bell rings for morning group time at **8:35am**.
- Parents and caregiver must be at the Kindergarten between **2:45pm and 3:00pm ready to collect their children**. Older children are not able to collect their younger siblings unless they are 18 years or over of age and listed on the Authorised Nominees Form.

TERM DATES

Term dates can be found on the school website.
<http://www.ddcs.qld.edu.au/Calendar>



DARLING DOWNS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (DDCS) PHILOSOPHY

At the DDCS Kindergarten.....

- * We aim to equip your child with knowledge, skills and experiences which will assist them to take their place in their family and the school community with confidence.

- * We acknowledge the important role of you the parent as your child's first educator and endeavour to foster positive relationships between home and school as we partner in the education of your child.

- * We recognise that your child is an individual with different God-given talents that need to be nurtured by providing opportunities for growth spiritually, physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually.

- * We ensure open ended play based learning focuses on the process not the product. It is the learning that is taking place that is the all important factor.

- * Our team aims to develop in your child a love of learning, a compassion for others, and an appreciation and acceptance of all people.

- * Our commitment to implementing a curriculum based on a Biblical World View means that all our staff are Christians who are actively demonstrating their faith.



ADVENTIST EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

Communities of Faith and Learning

Bible-based, Christ-centred, Service-oriented, Kingdom-directed



Early Childhood principles and practice concepts have been adapted from:

- Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for the Council of Australian Governments. (2009). *Belonging, Being and Becoming: Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*. Canberra: DEEWR.
- Ministry of Education. (1996). *Te Whāriki: He Whāriki Mātauranga mō ngā Mokopuna o Aotearoa: Early Childhood Education*. Wellington: Learning Media.

This model is an adaptation of:

- Special Character Working Party. (2013). *The Adventist school: A community of faith and learning*. Ringwood: Adventist Schools Australia.
- Seventh-day Adventist Church Children's Ministries (2015). *Building faith with Gracelink*. [online] Available at: http://children.adventist.org.au/uploaded_assets/424795 [Accessed 17th November 2015]

CURRICULUM

DDCS Kindergarten runs a play-based program underpinned by the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines, and approached from a Biblical World View.

The Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines is based on the Early Years Learning Framework, and helps teachers develop quality learning programs for children in the kindergarten year. It contains five learning and development areas.

Identity

A kindergarten child who has a strong sense of identity:

- is building a sense of security and trust
- acts with increasing independence and perseverance
- is building a confident self-identity

Connectedness

A kindergarten child who is connected with and contributes to their world:

- is building positive relationships with others
- shows increasing respect for diversity
- shows increasing respect for environments

Wellbeing

A kindergarten child who has a strong sense of wellbeing:

- is building a sense of autonomy and wellbeing
- explores ways to show care and concern and interact positively with others
- explores ways to promote own and others' health and safety
- explores ways to promote physical wellbeing

Active Learning

A kindergarten child who is a confident and involved learner:

- is building positive dispositions and approaches toward learning
- shows increasing confidence and involvement in learning
- engages in ways to be imaginative and creative
- explores tools, technologies and information and communication technologies (ICT's)

Communicating

A kindergarten child who is an effective communicator:

- explores and expands ways to use language
- explores and engages with literacy and numeracy in personally meaningful ways
- explores and engages with numeracy in personally meaningful ways



CLASS SIZE AND AGE

Classes are restricted in size in order to meet requirements of adult/child ratios. Children must have turned 4 by June 30 in their Kindergarten year (the year before Prep).

At DDCS Kindergarten your child must attend 3 days per week to meet requirements for entry into the funded program.

WHAT TO BRING

Munch and Crunch

Please provide fresh fruit or vegetables already cut and in a container clearly labelled with their name.

Lunch

Children need to bring all their own food in a lunch box clearly labelled with their name. We aim to provide children with a basic understanding of healthy eating habits, so please do not send sugar cakes, sweet biscuits, lollies, chocolate, chips, etc. in your child's lunch box.

Recess

A healthy snack – fruit, vegetables, crackers, etc. placed in a labelled container.

Drink bottles

Please send a clearly labelled water bottle each day.

Hand Towels

At DDCS Kindy, we aim to create a more sustainable environment. Please provide a clearly named hand towel for your child to dry their hands.

Rest and sleep

Rest time routine varies according to individual needs. We aim to make rest time a relaxed and pleasant time for all children. Mats will be provided. Your child will need to bring a cot-sized fitted bottom sheet, a top sheet and a small light blanket for cold weather, in a labelled drawstring fabric bag. On the last attendance day for the week, bedding will be taken home for washing.

Clothing

A change of clothes (in case of any accidents).

CHILD CARE BENEFIT FOR REGISTERED CARE

The DDCS Kindergarten is registered with the Department of Human Services as a Registered Care Provider. Being a Registered Care Provider means that eligible families may now be able to claim the Child Care Benefit for Registered Care Payment.

For information about eligibility and claiming, please contact the Department of Human Services. A Fact Sheet about Child Care benefit for Registered Care is available from our school office.

DAILY ROUTINE

A typical day for our Kindergarten students would include some of the following:

- Art, craft and other fine motor skills
- Physical education and games for gross motor development
- Rhymes, singing, poetry and music
- Movement and drama experiences
- Science and discovery experiences
- Books and stories
- Blocks and construction
- Outside play
- Free role play
- Pre-reading, pre-writing and pre-numeracy activities
- A quiet time for rest, or a sleep, depending on the needs of each child
- Structured meal times where children and staff sit down together.



UNIFORM

Uniforms can be purchased through the uniform shop. Joggers with Velcro are the ideal footwear.

- DDCS Kindergarten Polo shirt
- DDCS Bucket Hat
- Navy shorts (summer)
- Navy track pants (winter)



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We have an open door policy and parents are welcome at Kindergarten. Parents are invited to assist in the Kindergarten through a parent roster as well as to join in excursions or share any special talents or skills you may have.

Extended family members are welcome however they may need to apply for or present their Blue card at the school office before they can spend time in the Kindergarten. Please check with the school office for further details.

Parents are encouraged to offer suggestions about our program and the Kindergarten as a whole. We value the feedback from parents so that we can best meet the needs of our families.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Being part of a Primary School is a great advantage in the transition to Prep. The class will visit the school library and will have the chance to borrow a book. Children will have opportunity to become more involved in activities with the rest of the school such as visiting the Kitchen Garden. This transition means that children are familiar with the wider school environment and people when they enter their Prep year.

If you are interested in enrolling your child in the DDCS Kindergarten, please call the school to arrange an interview.