



MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE
Early Learning Centre



Parent Handbook

EARLY LEARNING CENTRES

Kingsford and Maroubra Campus

ELC MAROUBRA CAMPUS 3-5 YRS: **02 9349 4877**

ELC KINGSFORD CAMPUS 2-3 YRS: **02 9349 3967**

www.mountsinai.nsw.edu.au



Our Philosophy

Children have the right to learn, feel loved, respected and to have a voice in order to feel safe and secure. At Mount Sinai College (MSC) each child is recognised as unique. Children are supported so they develop autonomy, resilience and the ability to make choices and decisions. Our Early Childhood Educators are thoughtful and creative in their interactions with children, empowering them to be imaginative and confident learners. Children at MSC celebrate and recognise their Jewish identity and develop a strong understanding of their Jewish heritage, traditions, customs, culture and religion.

"Each child brings his own blessing into the world." (TALMUD)

- Children are curious and capable learners. We recognise that children have the capacity to succeed regardless of diverse circumstances and abilities. Children are given opportunities to engage in meaningful, play-based learning experiences. Their play provides opportunities to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine.
- Children construct understandings and new meanings on their own as well as in collaboration with peers, educators and adults. Our Educators listen to children, act as facilitators in their learning experiences and support their interests to help them

problem solve and extend their learning.

"Play is the forefather of culture and innovation." (JOHAN HUIZINGA)

- All children are recognised as valuable members of our Early Learning Centres (ELC). They are encouraged to be compassionate, considerate and helpful towards each other. We acknowledge and celebrate multiculturalism. As an early childhood service in Australia we value Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. All children aged from two to six years are accepted and welcome. Our educational program embraces diversity. Children have varied learning styles and abilities, and these guide our curriculum.
- Families are the first and most influential teachers in their child's life. Their insight and participation are greatly valued and recognised as essential in the development of our curriculum. Regular constructive feedback between parents and educators is promoted. All our Early Childhood Educators maintain quality communication practices with families in order to share information about their child's development and offer additional support if required. We share a common purpose with families and the wider community. Parents and extended family members are encouraged to share a variety of experiences with the children and to contribute to our program with their skills and expertise.

- All MSC Early Childhood Educators have obtained recognised Early Childhood qualifications. Our educators continuously enrich their practices through professional development and have a genuine commitment to continuous improvement. Each child's wellbeing is fostered. We provide quality educational resources and construct purposeful learning environments to allow for meaningful interactions and experiences.

"Education means making creators... inventors & innovators..." (JEAN PIAGET)

- Our Educators value the importance of learning relationships, wherein both the adult and the child learn from one another. We are deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful in our decisions and actions when providing learning opportunities. Inclusion is evident in MSC's practices as Educators ensure that all children's life experiences are recognised and valued.
- Mount Sinai College ELC educators have a strong commitment to child safety by providing a safe, secure and supported environment

for children and young people through implementing and adherence to the Child Safe Standards. We understand our responsibilities and statutory duty of care to build our capacity as an organisation to prevent and respond to allegations of child abuse. This extends to all children in our service and community.

Mount Sinai College ELC is intimately linked with Mount Sinai College's practices and ethos – ensuring continuity and a feeling of security when our children enter Kindergarten: *Mount Sinai College focuses on preparing students to meet the challenges of their future by honouring Jewish tradition and embracing change. The College builds community, identity and well-being through collaborative practices of rituals, behaviour and values of modern orthodox Jewish life. We continuously develop the professional capacity of the teaching team and ensure the teaching and learning practice and culture reflects our vision and values. We encourage each child to meet their potential by supporting their challenges, fostering their strengths and nurturing their sense of self. We instil in each child a love of learning.* (Mount Sinai College Vision and Mission Statement 2024)



"Learning and teaching should not stand on opposite banks and just watch the river flow by; instead, they should embark together on a journey down the water. Through an active, reciprocal exchange, teaching can strengthen learning how to learn." (LORIS MALAGUZZI)

Early Learning Centres



A short video on the ELC is available here.



KINGSFORD (2-3yrs) ■ MAROUBRA (3-5yrs)



Preparatory-School Readiness

MAROUBRA CAMPUS (4-5yrs): 6 RUSIC LANE, MAROUBRA

- Our ELC Director, Jill Allison is an enthusiastic and experienced Early Childhood Teacher dedicated to ensuring that the Educators, program, facilities and educational experiences are of the highest standard.
- Children at the ELCs are educated in a literacy and numeracy rich environment that is both challenging and fun. The importance of learning through play is recognised, and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), National Quality Standards (NQS), together with a number of educational philosophies (including Reggio Emilia), guide the teachers' practices.
- Children's interests and strengths influence the daily program. Specialist music and sport teachers further enhance the educational program. Families are encouraged to be involved in their child's educational journey and become part of the wider school community.
- Jewish identity, values and culture are embraced and celebrated through song, movement and creative activities including the Hebrew language.
- The ELC Kingsford caters for children between the ages of two and three years. There can be up to 24

children in each class per day. The current regulation requires one staff member for every five children under 3 years of age (1:5) and one staff member for every ten children aged 3 to 5 years (1:10).

- The Maroubra ELC caters for the 'Joeys Cohort', children between the ages of three to four years. There can be up to 20 children in each class per day. The current regulation requires one staff member for every ten children aged 3 to 5 years (1:10)
- The ELCs operate from Monday to Thursday (7:30am-6pm) and Fridays (7:30am-4pm). We operate 48 weeks of the year excluding public and specified Jewish holidays. ELC children can attend three, four or five days per week. Part-time positions are subject to availability and consecutive days of attendance are recommended.
- Children who start before the age of three are encouraged to be toilet trained. Those joining us after the age of three are required to be toilet trained. Each child's individual needs are catered for and their stage of development is recognised. Our Educators have many 'toilet training tips' which they will gladly share with interested parents.

- Our Preparatory (4-5yr olds) classes are located at our Maroubra campus where children can become familiar with daily school life ensuring a seamless transition to Year K (Kindergarten).
- Prep is designed specifically for children in the year prior to starting formal schooling in Year K (Kindergarten). Prep's focused school readiness program is unique to Mount Sinai College.
- The Prep program is based on an emergent preschool curriculum model and is centred around the children's individual needs, interests and abilities. The school readiness curriculum is integrated throughout each day, within a variety of structured and unstructured learning experiences that cater towards a preschool learning environment.
- Prep follows a Play-Based Learning Model where important life skills are reinforced such as sharing, turn-taking, problem-solving, managing emotions and effective communication skills. As well as this, the children are introduced to the six Key Learning Areas of the NSW Kindergarten Curriculum.

- Structured literacy and numeracy programs promote school readiness as does the complementary informal and formal Jewish and Hebrew learning along with specialised music and sport lessons.
- Each child is paired with a buddy as part of the 'Big Friend Small Friend' initiative. A Year 5 student develops a relationship with a Prep child that is nurtured through activities, giving a real sense of belonging.
- The Prep Educators are experienced University qualified Early Childhood Teachers, and our Assistant Educators are also highly qualified (University & TAFE).
- Prep operates under a dual model offering families a choice in fees and attendance. The table above outlines the two models and the conditions offered for each. Prep operates from Monday to Thursday (7:30am-6pm) and Fridays (7:30am-4pm) and all Prep children can attend within these hours and participate together in the same day-to-date classroom activities, irrespective of the model chosen.



How to Enrol

ENROLMENT AT MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE IS A TWO-PART PROCESS:

For full details on the enrolment process, including registration requirements, please visit our website: www.mountsinai.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/how-to-enrol.

You'll find all the information you need to begin your child's journey at Mount Sinai College.

PAYMENT AND FEES

Fee schedules for the current year are available on our website. Eligible families may receive the Australian Government's Child Care Subsidy (CCS) for ELC fees and for Prep fees if attending on the Long Day Care model. The CCS does not apply to Prep fees for those attending on the School Term model.

BOOK A TOUR

To book a personalised tour of either or both ELC campuses, please call 9349 4877 or email enrol@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au

Jewish Life and Learning

- We embrace both Jewish and Australian culture. We help each child develop a personal commitment to their Judaism and Heritage in the modern world, as well as a love for the Jewish people and the State of Israel.
- Festivals and Torah stories are celebrated and studied through song, movement and creative activities.
- Hebrew language is seamlessly integrated into the program. Shabbat celebrations are both traditional and lots of fun.
- Weekly visits from the Rabbi enrich our Jewish studies.
- Weekly lessons from a College Jewish Studies teacher and Early Childhood Hebrew Specialist further enhance the learning program.



"As Jews, we believe in educating our children from the earliest of ages. The only way to ensure that our nation continues to grow and survive is by passing on our heritage, our customs and traditions to the next generation in a meaningful and inspiring way."
 (RABBI ZALMAN, COLLEGE RABBI)




More information is available here.



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KINGSFORD CAMPUS ■ 21 APSLEY AVENUE KINGSFORD ■ **02 9349 3967**

MAROUBRA CAMPUS ■ 6 RUSIC LANE MAROUBRA ■ **02 9349 4877**

BOOK A TOUR TODAY



Distinguished School

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