

FEBRUARY  
2025

## Upcoming Events at Katoomba Leura Preschool

### Welcome Morning Tea

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February and  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February (further details  
in Newsletter and at door)

### Gardening Day

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March and  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March (further details in  
Newsletter and at door)

### Steps Vision Screening

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March (permission  
envelopes to be circulated)

Please ensure you have downloaded the  
Owona app. If you need help, please let us  
know.

## Welcome to 2025

It is lovely to see preschool again filled with laughter and the sounds of children at play. We are so pleased to welcome families back and meet those new to preschool this year as well.

During the term break, we enjoyed meeting new families at our "Invitation to Play" morning. We loved seeing new faces, encouraging friendships between families and learning about our new children before term officially began. The morning was so successful that we hope to continue this "get to know preschool" in years to come. If you need any further support in your start to preschool, please let us know.





## Bilby Nest



Last year we began an enquiry project, "Bikes" The languages of wire, drawing, clay and digital media were used to represent the children's thinking and theories about bikes.

We have now completed our collaborative mural to express these ideas and are proud of the work of our children. Our beautiful mural now hangs proudly in the area identifying the new bike space. We encourage our children and families to utilise the area by riding your bike to preschool.

## Lilli Pilli Nest

Throughout this term we are focussing on building connections and feelings of belonging within our Lilli Pilli Nest. Through stories, music, , textile work, play and cups of tea, Lilli Pillis have bonded over shared interests, formed new friendships and have been inspired to learn with Country.

With the discovery of mushrooms in our outdoor space, we have begun to investigate children's questions:

*How do they grow there?*

*Are they alive?*

*Should we just not leave them there?*

We are looking forward to more encounters and learning with fungi.



## Bower Bird Nest

Myself, Maia, Kayla and Annelise are so happy to be welcoming you back, or perhaps to, the Bowerbird family this year. We would also like to extend our warm welcome to Perrine, previously a Lilli Pilli educator who is joining our little family in 2025.

For those of you who were with us last year, if would like to say hello to Sandi, she will be working in the Lilli Pilli nest this year.

To begin the year, the Bowerbird team sat down together to work on a Vision for 2025. Our key focus to begin the year will be around developing children's sense of belonging at preschool and building strong, warm, collaborative relationships with one another, your children and yourselves. This year, we hope to also engage the children in meaningful rituals throughout the day in warm welcoming environments, continue our work around celebrations, explore significant learning projects and have fun together!

It's been a wonderful start to the year, wondering about bowers, making new friends, learning new songs, exploring light and planting a pollinators garden. We are so looking forward to diving deeper into learning with your children as the year continues.  
From Emily





## Welcome to preschool

We are excited to welcome you and your child to preschool for 2025. To celebrate our new preschool year, we would like to welcome families with a morning tea. We would love you to come along, meet, mingle and discover all about preschool with your child.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
10am-12 noon

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
10am-12 noon

## Your Preschool needs you!



Katoomba Leura Preschool is run by a voluntary committee of parents and carers. Without the committee, your Preschool would not be able to operate. We welcome parents and carers to join and share their views and ideas with us and help collaborate on the continuous improvement of our preschool.

We are now seeking nominations for several new members to join our Committee.

Can you give up 1 hour of your time each term?

Would you like to make a difference to our community?

Then we'd love to hear from you!

If you are interested in joining the Preschool Committee, please get in touch.

Please contact Alison on 4782 1639 or [director.katoombaleurapreschool@gmail.com](mailto:director.katoombaleurapreschool@gmail.com)

## SunSmart Families

Families love being outdoors and being active, but being outdoors means you and your family can be exposed to UV radiation.

To protect your family's health and create habits that your children can carry with them through life, make sure your family know when the UV hits 3 and the best ways to cover up from UV.

If the UV is 3 or above, make sure your family uses five forms of sun protection by wearing a hat, clothing and sunglasses, applying sunscreen and enjoying shady areas outdoors to give you extra coverage. We remind you to always ensure your child brings a hat to preschool.

Download the free [SunSmart Global UV app](#) so you always know when to protect yourself and your family from the sun's UV.

Parents and carers are powerful role models. When you use all five forms of sun protection, not only is it protecting you, it means children are more likely to use them too.

Make sun protection part of your daily routine to show how to be SunSmart. Help make sun protection a part of the daily routine and encourage children to Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide.

Guide children to choose SunSmart clothing, create a sunscreen station for easy application before going outdoors, make sure hats and sunglasses are within reach, and promote outdoor play in shaded spaces.

Enjoy entertainer, actor and Playschool favourite Jay, as he puts a fresh spin on the Sunsmart message that will have you singing and dancing.



## KEEP YOUR SOIL HAPPY

The benefits of composting are endless. You can improve the structure, water retention and drainage of the soil in your garden, as well as increasing the retention of nutrients, resulting in happy and healthy plants. The best bit? Once you're all set up, your compost system will mostly look after itself.

At Katoomba Leura Preschool our staff and children enjoy composting and waste to use on our beautiful gardens as well as to feed our worms.

Learning how to compost isn't difficult, Costsa Georgiadis has a very simple video explaining the steps to take to start composting at home. Find the video here <https://youtu.be/Uw5JVZSzMUA>





## Katoomba Leura Preschool Philosophy: Values and Visions

### The image of the child

We value and honour children's play and playful inquiry as both a process and context for learning and human expression. Through play, children are able to express their emotions, curiosity, wonder, questions and theories about the world around them.

We trust in children's abilities to make decisions, assess risks and exercise their agency. We value the rights of each and every child and commit to advocating for these rights. Children are seen as capable and valued members of the community with both rights and responsibilities as active citizens. We encourage children to notice and speak out about unfairness and act to change it.

We acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we play and learn, and believe in children's right to learn about the histories, cultures and worldviews of Australia's First Nations peoples.

### Relationships

We believe that respectful and collaborative relationships are the cornerstone of belonging for children, families and educators. Belonging is essential for children to experience feelings of safety, security and self-confidence, and we acknowledge and celebrate the crucial role of family in children's lives. We are committed to supporting each child's sense of belonging through their relationships with others, in both human and 'more-than-human' worlds. We believe that respectful relationships require a commitment to equity and social justice and strive to ensure that all members of our preschool community feel seen, heard and appreciated.

We believe in the importance of an 'unhurried environment' as a context for learning and relationship building. Long, sustained periods of play support children to collaborate, negotiate, develop confidence and engage in meaningful dialogue with others. Routines and rituals at preschool are designed to facilitate connection and belonging between all children.

### Places and Spaces

We believe that the environment acts as a 'third teacher,' playing a crucial role in supporting children's play and learning. We value the importance of beauty in children's lives, and therefore believe that spaces should be uplifting, inviting, engaging and reflective of the preschool community. Learning spaces are intentionally organised to allow children to experiment with open-ended, creative and flexible materials.

Our outdoor environment includes plants, trees, rocks, sand, mud and water and supports children's risk taking, exploration and connection with nature. Children are supported to learn with Country, developing meaningful and reciprocal relationships with the land through daily sustainable practices and ongoing Bush Preschool experiences.

### Inquiry and collaboration

Children learn best when they are supported to problem solve, make connections, and build upon theories through holistic, integrated and hands-on experiences. We trust in the children's ability to think deeply and collaboratively about 'big questions' and express themselves through the hundred languages. We value creative practices such as mark making, music, movement, sculpture, construction and dramatic play as a vehicle for children's expression.

Teachers and educators are co-researchers alongside children. We believe our role is to make visible children's voices through active listening, questioning, dialogue and documentation. We join our attention to the children's, and walk alongside them in the inquiry process.

Teachers and educators engage in ongoing inquiry and critical reflection as a foundation for organisational growth, professional learning and consistent high-quality practices at preschool.

Reviewed 2024 by the Children, Educators and Families of Katoomba Leura Preschool







# LET'S GET GARDENING

Join us for Katoomba Leura Preschool's gardening afternoons.

This is a great opportunity to meet other families and help us care for the grounds of our beautiful preschool. Come for a few minutes or stay for the afternoon.

No experience required. Just grab your gardening gear, come along & join the fun!

Gardening  
afternoon tea

Get involved

Meet other families

Be an active part of  
your preschool  
community

Learn new skills

**KATOOMBA  
LEURA  
PRESCHOOL**

Tuesday:

11 March

Thursday:

13 March

2pm

## Best of luck Nicole!

Nicole is leaving to begin her parental leave on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February. We are so thrilled for her and can't wait to meet her new addition. Please join us in wishing Nicole and Rhys all the very best for the exciting journey they are beginning.





## NATURE WALK

Going on a nature walk and deliberately noticing things encourages children to observe with all their senses. Children can learn to focus their attention and take in the details of things around them. It can be a peaceful, reflective experience for you and your children.

**All you need is somewhere to walk** – You can simply venture out your front door, walk around your local area, a local park or nature reserve. You could also plan a longer excursion and head to a beach or national park.

**Remove barriers** – A nature walk can happen in all weather, just be prepared! Always wear appropriate shoes for your environment. If it's sunny remember hats, sun smart clothing, sunscreen and bug spray. If it's raining bring raincoats and chuck a towel in the car just in case there is puddle splashing along the way.

**Don't over plan** – Don't rush. Try to let your children lead you where it is safe to do so. Watch them discover and show you things.

**Noticing nature walk** - Encourage your child to pay attention to the environment with all their senses. You can do this by asking questions as you go. For example:

- **Seeing questions:** what can you see? Look all around you, up at the sky and down at the ground.
- **Smelling questions:** what can you smell? Can you describe the smell? Leafy? Like mud?
- **Hearing questions:** what can you hear? Birds? The wind? Other people?
- **Feeling and touching questions:** what can you feel? Is the sun warm? Is the ground rough or smooth?

Raisingchildrennetwork.com (2022). *Noticing nature walk: activity for children 3-6 years* Retrieved from <https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/activity-guides/sensory-play/noticing-nature-walk-activity-for-children-3-6-years>

## Our Community Pantry

...is a place that families can take what they need and give what they can. There are a variety of things in the pantry and everyone is welcome to help themselves. We kindly ask our families to donate if they are able, to help those families who need support.

If you are able to donate, we kindly ask for canned or sealed, in-date, non-perishable products. The following are some examples of what would be welcomed:

- Canned soup
- Canned fruit or vegetables
- Noodles and Pasta
- Cereal, rolled oats or rice
- Baked beans, spaghetti
- Tuna or other canned proteins
- Split peas, lentils
- Long life milk
- Pasta sauce, tinned tomatoes
- Oils and vinegars for cooking or salads

Not only does our Community Pantry create stronger bonds within our preschool, we are supporting our children in understanding compassionate ways to help others and become effective members of the community.



We are starting to get together a Community Pantry (above). We are looking for a suitable cupboard with doors to upcycle to provide a home for the foodstuffs and kindly ask any families should they have anything suitable or stock for the Pantry, please let us know.

## Congratulations Emily

We are thrilled to let you know that our talented Bower Bird teacher Emily is publishing her first book!



The StEPS program is an initiative of NSW Health and offers all 4 years old children free vision screening. NSW Health advises all children to have their vision screened before they start school and strongly recommends that all four year old children participate in the program. StEPS will be visiting preschool during March and permission envelopes will be circulated shortly for those who wish to participate.

Katoomba Leura Preschool

Email: [Dianne.katoombaleurapreschool@gmail.com](mailto:Dianne.katoombaleurapreschool@gmail.com)  
Phone number: 4782 1639

Join us on Facebook or Instagram

Feedback  is always welcome