



Windermere®

*everyone is someone
in our community*



Early Learning Centre

Kindergarten



“Give your child the best start in life”

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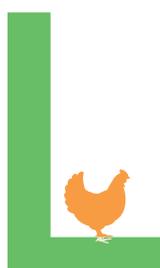
Windermere's Early Learning Centre (WELC) values and respects children:



We believe that children have a right to feel safe



Environments enable children to explore and express their own individuality



Learning experiences are open-ended and reflect a child's diverse needs



Community is vital and is inclusive of children, their families and educators

About Windermere Early Learning

Your child should have the best start in life, which is why we've developed a high-quality kindergarten program with a ground breaking twist.

Set in a stunning natural environment and accommodating children from six weeks to five years old, our purpose built Early Learning Centre flows serenely from indoors to outdoors. From the extensive, interactive outside play spaces to dedicated creative work rooms and separate sleep rooms for babies, we encourage your child to thrive.

Our creative play environment, fosters your child's curiosity, enthusiasm and imagination to build confidence, determination and co-operation, building essential skills for life.

Our warm, professional educators, teachers and staff are there to ensure your child has the best early childhood education experience.

Hours of operation

7:30am – 6:00pm Monday to Friday

Open all non-national public holidays
e.g. Melbourne Cup, Labour Day etc.

Windermere Early Learning Centre offers:

- Separate age appropriate rooms, for babies to children up to six years
- Part time or full time care options
- Fresh, nutritionally balanced meals and snacks
- Nappies
- Dedicated three year old kinder program - no more shuttling your child to and from kinder and day care
- Government funded four year old kinder program
- Qualified, experienced early childhood professionals
- An inclusive environment for children with special needs and with wheelchair access
- Access to Child Care Subsidy (CCS)



What makes Windermere Early Learning Kindergarten different?

Windermere ELC Kindergarten program is based in a nurturing long day care environment, providing a smooth comfortable transition into kindergarten for your child in surroundings where they already feel comfortable and happy.

This enables you and your child to enjoy the benefits of the long day care program.

You child will benefit from our evidence based best practice approach. We use a learning through play philosophy to nurture children's interests and foster their literacy and language development. This includes a number of daily 'adult-child' interactions in all activities.

Our partnership with Monash University on the Conceptual PlayWorld teaches Science, Technology and Engineering concepts. The focus is on creating "play worlds" where children learn by doing and experiencing.

There is no better way to prepare you child for the transition to school and beyond.



What we do

We use proven techniques of:

- *Conversational Reading* — 'back and forth' conversations between adult and child. It is 'child-led' and responds to spontaneous interactions from the children.
- *Learning Games* — teachers intentionally plan learning games based on the identified needs of each child, their abilities and interests. The activities are based on 1:1 or 1:2 adult-child interactions. These games are held as part of the children's intentional learning program.
- *Enriched Caregiving* — every moment of every day is an opportunity to use reciprocal language with all children. This is implemented through incorporating conversation, ideas and song into everyday activities and routines.



Excursions

A highlight of our unique kindergarten program are the weekly excursions and enrichment activities. Once a week children walk across to Monash University where they access the rock wall and hockey oval. They participate in a variety of planned physical activities including ball games, circle games and music and movement.

The children also enjoy weekly "Nature and Learn" outdoor classroom sessions at George Pentland Botanic Park. The sessions use play based learning for the children to explore and experience their environment and develop new skills and learning opportunities.

It is great to take children out into their community and we are so lucky to have such valuable opportunities.

The excursions enhance the children's sense of belonging and understanding about the world around them, and provide them with many learning opportunities:

- Enhancing their literacy and numeracy skills
- Following instructions
- Road safety education and much more.

Since implementing this program we have observed children to increase their:

- Risk taking skills
- Confidence
- Emotional wellbeing skills
- Muscle tone
- Endurance & climbing skills
- Sense of success
- Following instructions & turn taking
- Gross motor skills

We also have annual excursions to the Melbourne Zoo and regularly plan excursions out to our greater community.

A typical day at Windermere ELC Kindergarten

7.30 – 9.00	<i>Breakfast and play with all the children in the center</i>
9.00 – 9.30	<i>Outdoor play</i>
9.30 – 10.00	<i>Group time - Music and Movement and Story</i>
10.00 – 10.30	<i>Fruit time on the mat in a circle</i>
10.30 – 11.30	<i>Inside learning experiences</i>
11.30 – 11.45	<i>Pack-up time, indoor/ outdoor program</i>
11.45 – 12.30	<i>Outdoor play</i>
12.30 – 1.15	<i>Lunch</i>
1.15 – 1.30	<i>Quiet time/Learning groups</i>
1.30 – 2.00	<i>Group time – Reflection on the day</i>
2.00 – 5.00	<i>Indoor/Outdoor play</i>
3.00 – 3.30	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>
5.30 – 6.00	<i>Late snack</i>



The benefits of kindergarten

Kindergarten benefits your child's development in the following key areas:

- Social skills - how to negotiate, share and problem solve with other children in a calm and supportive environment
- Self-awareness and learning respect for others
- Developing emotional intelligence, for example understanding their feelings and emotions
- Language, literacy and numeracy skills, through play, use of books and intentional teaching
- Children to explore their environment accessing all activities though play, investigation, trial and error and learning how the world around them works
- Develop social and emotional skill to make new friends and interact positively with others
- Exposure to new experiences, ideas and concepts

The best way to discover what makes Windermere ELC Kindergarten so unique is to come and try it for yourself. Contact us today on 03 9784 5300 to arrange a visit.

What I did at kinder today...

Play is the most important aspect of a pre-school child's life and has enormous educational value. By actively playing, a child learns about the world around them. Play for children can be compared to work in an adult's life.

Through play children learn the basic skills that are necessary for lifelong learning. At Windermere ELC Kindergarten we know a play based program is essential. Children need the freedom to have a choice and voice in their learning environments. We work with the children to develop all activities by planning their learning with them. Our program is developed based on children's individual skills and interests and is appropriate for their age group and stage of development.

Our play based kindergarten program sessions are busy and happy experiences.

Children who are already enrolled at Windermere ELC and are the required age to participate in the kindergarten program, will be offered the opportunity to meet with the teachers before they start in the program. This ensures transition is comfortable and smooth, and helps your child (and you) to become familiar with a new routine and ask questions.



"What is desired is that the teacher ceased being a lecturer, satisfied with transmitting ready-made solutions. His role should rather be that of a mentor stimulating initiative and research."

Jean Piaget

Why wait for the New Year?

We take kindergarten enrolments throughout the year, allowing your child to enrol as soon as they reach the required age, vacancies permitting. Contact us today phone 03 9784 5300 or email windermereelc@windermere.org.au

Getting ready for kinder

Starting kindergarten is a major milestone, and as with any new experience in life it takes time for children to feel relaxed and confident in a new environment. Rest assured, Windermere ELC teachers and educators are very supportive and experienced in quickly helping your child to feel welcome, comfortable and safe.



Your role as a parent...

You are your child's learning role model. All parents are invited to be involved in their child's learning by assisting in the classroom at least once a term where possible.

Parent helpers offer a huge resource and support base for our kindergarten community. Your involvement will show your children the importance of participating in the larger community. Not only will we benefit from your participation, but you will too!

Interacting with your child's teachers on a regular basis, will give you first-hand understanding of your child's learning.

Talk to your child about where they are going, what they will do, with who and why.

Our educators work to ensure that arrivals and departures to and from the centre are not only safe and secure for the children, but also a valuable means of exchanging
8 information with families.



How do I know if my child is ready for kindergarten?

Kindergarten readiness is at the top of many parents' minds. While a child's birthdate is one indicator, there are many other factors to consider and some things to have a think about include:

- Do they enjoy playing alongside other children?
- Do they feel comfortable separating from you?
- Are they able and comfortable communicating their feelings with their peers and teachers?
- Are they able and confident in talking about what they need?
- Are they aware of their bodily needs eg. ask for food if hungry, wash their own hands, go to the toilet?
- Are they able to understand and follow instructions to keep them safe?

If you believe your child doesn't meet some of these factors, that's ok. Come in and chat with the team to discuss options to prepare for your child's kindergarten experience, or give us a call on 03 9784 5300

Keeping you in the loop:

We welcome your interest and involvement in your child's learning. We hold regular parent/teacher interviews and information sessions where you can chat directly with our teacher about your child's progress.

We also use Storypark (an easy to use, private online tool) to keep you updated on the daily activities your child has been involved in through the kindergarten program.



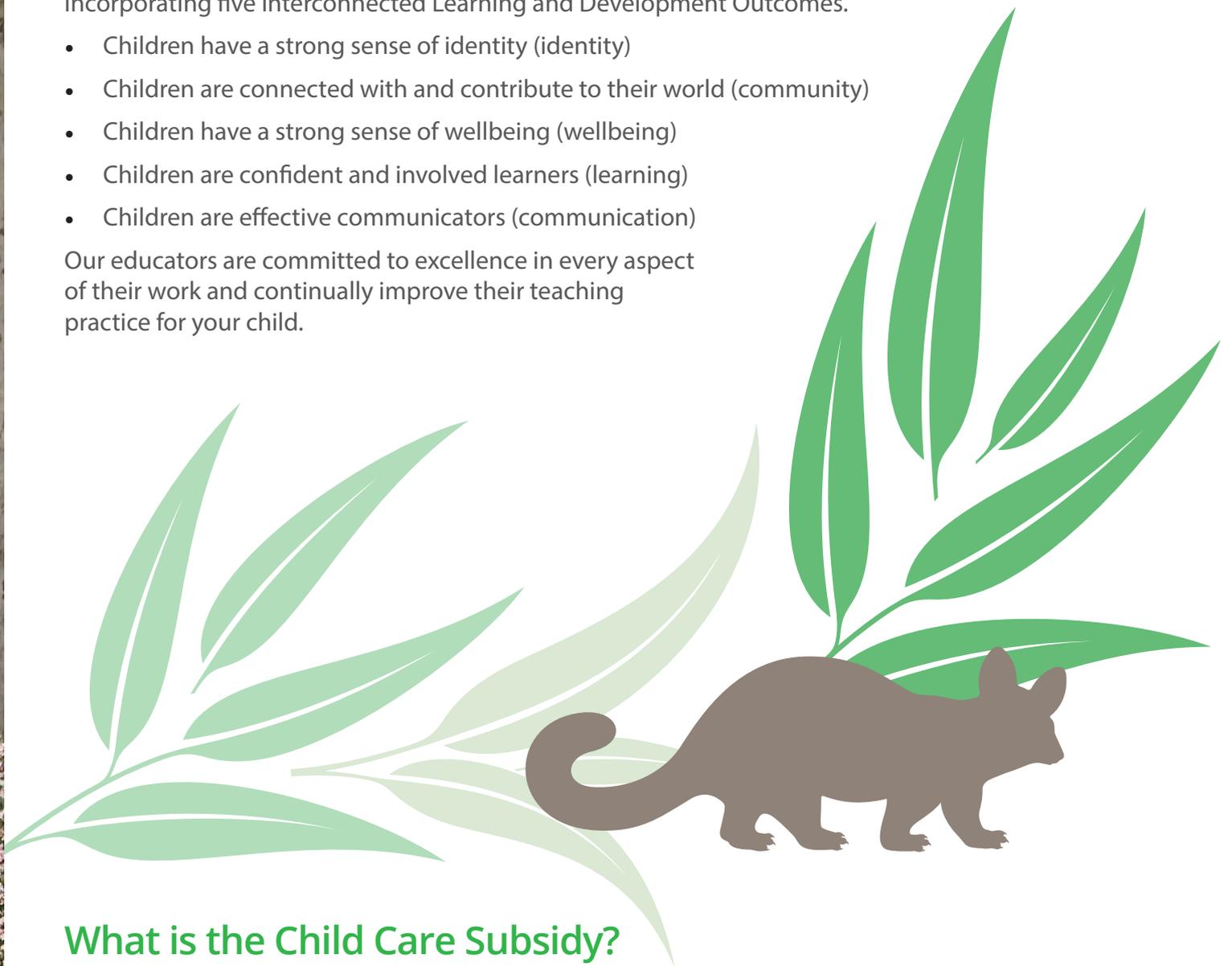


National Quality Framework

The curriculum at Windermere ELC is based on the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF). The framework sets standards to deliver quality education for young children incorporating five interconnected Learning and Development Outcomes.

- Children have a strong sense of identity (identity)
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world (community)
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing (wellbeing)
- Children are confident and involved learners (learning)
- Children are effective communicators (communication)

Our educators are committed to excellence in every aspect of their work and continually improve their teaching practice for your child.



What is the Child Care Subsidy?

The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) is the government's way of helping families with their child care fees. The government pays the CCS to us and we pass it on to you as a fee reduction.

The amount of CCS you receive is calculated by the Government and is based on:

- The type of childcare service you access (must be an approved childcare provider)
- Your combined family income
- An activity test.

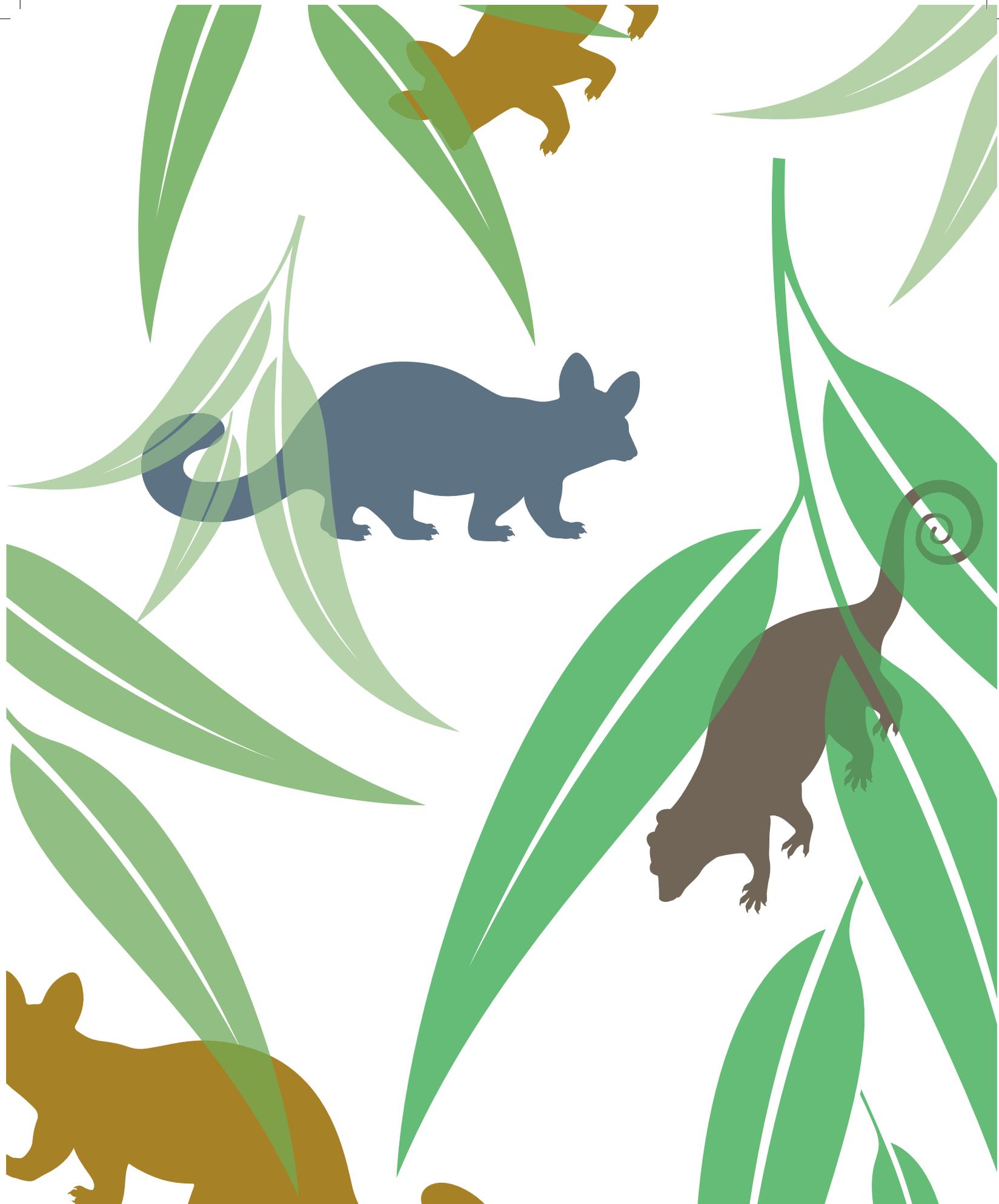
Criteria for the activity test includes the length of activity you undertake and the different types of activity you do such as study, paid or unpaid work.

Eligible families may also be able to claim additional support through the Child Care Safety Net.

To receive CCS you need to register through the Australian Government's MyGov website, access the Centrelink portal, and provide an estimate of your work activity and income.

To find out more about the CCS go to <https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-subsidy-0>

For further information visit mychild.gov.au or chat to our Centre Director.



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