

**BUTTERFLY HOUSE | PLAYGROUP**

# what to expect

Welcome to Butterfly House. Our program offers a wonderful opportunity to enjoy one-on-one time with your child in a prepared and facilitated Montessori environment. Included here is information on what to expect at your session.

**INDIVIDUAL WORK ACTIVITIES** | The first 30 minutes of the session is dedicated to practising fine motor, practical life, sensorial and language skills in the classroom. The space is set up so that your child can freely choose an activity. Please assist your child only if necessary and either sit together at a table or on the floor. When your child has finished, encourage him/her to put the job back on the correct shelf or model this step if necessary.

This process of being able to choose an activity, complete the task and place the job back on the shelf encourages the development of independence, self-discipline and responsibility. These are the attributes we are working towards so your child can enter Children's House or Pre Primary with confidence when the time comes. The Co-ordinator is always available to model an activity for you.

For the purpose of helping children develop concentration, the back door remains closed for the first 30 minutes of each session. If your child would like to go outside during this time, painting and various practical life jobs are always available on the front verandah.

A guided craft or cooking activity is often available during the first hour of the session. Please follow your child's interest and ability. These activities are optional and will be repeated throughout the year.

**SHARED SNACK** | Please bring a piece of fruit/vegetable for shared snack and encourage your child to place the item in the fruit bowl on arrival.

The children sit together for snack. Fruit is prepared by parent helpers and interested children can assist with washing fruit and cutting bananas.

When ready, children may need assistance to wash their hands and be encouraged to choose a plate, glass and tongs and take them to the table. Allow your child to have a go at pouring their own water and using the tongs - spills are expected and a common occurrence!

We use glass and crockery to teach and encourage careful handling. This practice will instil confidence in your child and help build important skills. When snack is finished children complete the cycle by washing their own dishes. Again, assist where necessary and model these steps for younger children.

## Sessions

### 9AM | MONDAY TO FRIDAY

- 0900 Individual Activities
- 1000 Shared Snack
- 1030 Shared Music / Story
- 1045 Shared Pack Away
- 1100 Session Close

### 12:30PM | WEDNESDAY

- 1230 Individual Activities
- 1330 Shared Snack
- 1400 Shared Music / Story
- 1415 Shared Pack Away
- 1430 Session Close

*Sessions run during school term, excluding public holidays.*



**SHARED SONG / STORYTIME** | After snack we sit together on the mat for a simple music and movement session and sometimes a story. Encourage your child but follow their interest. It is acceptable for them to choose another activity, as long as they are not disrupting the session.

**SHARED PACK AWAY** | On completion of the mat time, please assist in preparing the room for the next session. The Co-ordinator will direct the necessary tasks and we thank you for your assistance.

## HELPFUL DETAILS

**Bags** Please leave all bags on the bench on the right hand side of the verandah.

**Birthdays** If you wish, you may bring a cake to celebrate your child's birthday. Please keep allergies in mind and note that nuts are not permitted - a list of ingredients is always helpful.

**Car Parking** Please use the school's designated parking areas.

**Conversation** Please understand we do not discourage conversation between those in the room, however we do need to acknowledge and respect the need for a moderate level of noise so as to encourage the development of concentration for the children. A very quiet room can be disconcerting; a quiet 'buzz' of sound is generally the optimum auditory environment.

**Early Arrivals** If you arrive early, please feel welcome to wait on the verandah. The door will open at 9.00am to allow the Co-ordinator to prepare the physical environment.

**Feeding your Child** If you need to feed your child in addition to group morning tea, please use the kitchen area - nuts are not permitted. Please feel comfortable to breast/bottle feed wherever you are most comfortable.

**Infant Siblings** We welcome infant siblings. Please register name and date of birth details with the Co-ordinator.

**Notices** All notices are posted on the Butterfly House Facebook Page (Butterfly House, Riverlands Montessori School Playgroup).

**Prams** Please park prams on the right hand side of the verandah.

**Re-enrolment** An email will be circulated during week 6 of each term detailing the re-enrolment process. Please re-enrol by the advertised date to secure your place and assist us in welcoming new families to Butterfly House.

**Tea and Coffee** Please help yourself to tea, coffee and filtered water.

**Toilet/Change Area** Please leave this area clean and tidy. Nappies should be disposed of in the sanitary bin provided and the potty cleaned after use.

We hope you find this information useful. Please always feel free to ask if you have any concerns or questions. Above all we hope you enjoy this truly important time in your child's life and hope that your experience at Butterfly House will give you a good foundation understanding of Montessori education.

