

EOOSH NEWSLETTER

Ermington OOSH January Newsletter

CONTACT DETAILS:

ERMINGTONOOSH@LIVE.COM.AU

0478117321



OPENING HOURS

MORNINGS 7AM-9AM

Just a friendly reminder that Children must be signed in and brought to the centre by an adult. Please do not drop your child at the gate and let them walk to the centre alone. Ermington OOSH Educators are not responsible for your child/ren before 7am or before they are signed in by an adult so please do not leave them unattended. Please do not drop your child/ren any later than 8:15am.

AFTERNOONS 3PM-6PM

Children will arrive at OOSH directly from school at 3pm. Please note that you need to notify the OOSH Centre via email and or call to let us know prior to 3pm, if your child is not attending. Kindergarten children will be collected from their classrooms for the first term of 2025. Non notification fees will occur if we have not been notified that a child is not attending prior to this time. If your child has extra curricular activities please be advised and advise your Child that they will need to sign at OOSH before going to their activities. Children must be collected before 6pm, or late fees will be applied

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- Please ensure you communicate regularly with the centre if there has been any changes in regards to your children. This may include medical, behavioural or emotional needs.
- Please remember we are a **no nut centre**. If you need help with healthy snack ideas, please reach out.
- Please remember that Parents and Carers are not permitted to take photos of children while they are under our care.
- Family/Parent Code of Conducts are required to be signed from all families. Please ensure this is completed and returned by Week 3 of Term 1.
- If your child is absent or going home with someone else, please let us know prior.

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January Notice board

Menu

Please refer to the menu attached to see our menu rotation for the term.

Journal

The journal is a form of documentation which is used at OOSH to show what has been happening daily with the children. This includes activities, photos and comments. It is also an opportunity for the children to display their artworks / creative pieces if requested. Please feel free to check this out as it is displayed on the sign out table or ask an Educator to see it.



Lets dive back into January and see what's happening in February.

During the month of January, we held our summer vacation care program. This consisted of excursions, incursions and in-centre days that were themed and had programmed activities that the children could participate in. Some of the favoured days included wheelchair basketball, TruNinja, Code red and lollipops, Educators Vs Children's day, Archie brothers, 360 action park and zone bowling.

These days offer children the opportunity to gain important skills and further develop as they are surrounded by children of all ages and engage in activities that stimulate their brains in various ways. Children are given the opportunity to participate in self-initiated play as well as planned activities exploring different aspects of development and enhancing their sense of identity.

Highlighted activities for this month included cubby houses, magnets, block buildings, paper planes, variations of tip, table tennis and board games/ card games. Chess matches against Educators seemed to be a favourite activity for the morning periods as well as group games such as tip or hide and seek at excursions.

If your child attended the recent summer vacation care, please use the link to fill out a feedback survey. All responses are analysed and used to create the following vacation care periods programs.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MLQNL5J>

In February, we have the beginning of term 1 2025 which we are so excited for. We will be having a sports activity running every Thursday of this term for the children to participate in as well. Before and after school care will run as usual with the children having the choice of both spontaneous and programmed activities.



We have now added a QR code to a feedback survey at the front of the service.

If you have time please fill it out. The survey is completely anonymous, if you have any serious concerns please speak to an Educator or email us.

Link to feedback form

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6Z5NZ98>



Educator profiles

I would love to reintroduce all our Educators coming into 2025 with us.

Kris (Director)

Hi Families, I am Kris and I am the Director of Ermington OOSH. I have been working here for 8 wonderful years this year!! My role is to oversee all Educators and monitor children's development and wellbeing as a whole. I implement the national quality framework alongside my leadership team. I have just returned after having my first baby boy Elijah so I currently only work 3 days a week. Looking forward to meeting you all this year.

Maia (Assistant Director)

Hi Families, my name is Maia and this year will be my 8th year working at this amazing OOSH! My role as Assistant Director includes implementing and evaluating on educational programs that meet the needs of all children, supporting Kris and the committee and creating and fun, healthy, positive and encouraging environment for all children in my care.

I am looking forward to another amazing year!

Rachel (Educational Leader)

Hi Families, my name is Rachel and this will be my third year at Ermington OOSH and I am studying my certificate 3 in early childhood. My role at OOSH includes the developing and implementation of the Educational program for the children. I create our weekly programs including all activities that the children can engage in as well as the vacation care program. I also often contribute to wall displays, administration and the newsletter/website. Outside of my role at OOSH, I am very social, often spending my spare time with friends and family, at the gym, beach (a lot) or doing something outdoors. I am looking forward to meeting all our new families and seeing some familiar faces in 2025 :)

Laura

Hello parents of Ermington OOSH! My name is Laura and I have been working here for two years. My role as a senior educator is to help ensure the program is running and support others to do the same. It also involves making sure OOSH is a safe place and building a sense of belonging for all. I am currently studying occupational therapy at the University of Sydney. I enjoy spending time with my friends, engaging in physical activity, and trying different food spots. I am excited for another year of OOSH and the fun activities with all the new and returning children!

Will

What up parents, my name is Will and this will be my third year at Ermington Oosh. My role at OOSH is as a senior educator aiding the implementation of the program and leading and teaching other newer educators. Outside of OOSH I am currently entering my fourth year studying a double degree in law and psychology and enjoy running, catching up with friends and reading books. I am looking forward to catching up with all the returning children and families as well as seeing and meeting some new faces in 2025.

Educator profiles

Chloé (WHS Officer)

Hello families and new families ! Welcome or Welcome back ! My name is Chloé and this will be my third year at EOOSH. I am a senior educator and I help facilitate the program as well as assist other new educators. I am also the WHS Officer, which means I look after all children with medication and ensure that all our medical/chemical supplies are all in date. Outside of OOSH, I enjoy going to the gym, hanging out with friends, listening to music and learning something new everyday! I am looking forward to another year here at EOOSH and getting to know all our new comers as well as connecting more with our current families and children.

Mel

Hey Families, I'm Mel, I have been working at Ermington OOSH for a year now and have loved every second of it! I have a degree in design and love implementing my skills and creativity within fun art and craft activities at OOSH with the children. My role at OOSH as an educator involves implementing and carrying out programmed activities, as well as carrying out daily observations to measure and track the educational and social development of children. When I'm not at OOSH, I enjoy reading, running and am currently teaching myself Italian! I am very excited for this new year at OOSH and to see old faces return to OOSH as well as meet all the new faces!

Alex

Hi Families, my name is Alex and I have been at Ermington for nearly a year. I am currently doing my honors in psychology at UTS and I enjoy gaming and music in my spare time. My role at OOSH consists of implementing the Educational program, running activities and completing daily observations to track children's development. I am keen to meet all the new children and families and see everyone from 2024 :).

Chris

Hi I'm Chris and I have worked at OOSH for nearly 3 years and have been apart of the community for around a decade. My role at OOSH is a casual junior educator who focuses in children engagement and supporting senior educators. Outside of OOSH I am currently entering my final year of secondary school and engage in many hobbies with some including calisthenics, cricket, and piano with a primary goal of improving myself daily. I am highly looking forward to a action packed year here at OOSH and continuing to foster a positive environment for children and families.

Jamie

Hey I am Jamie!! I finished schooling last year and I will be going to university to study business this year. In my spare time, I enjoy being outdoors, going to the gym, doing Maui tai and hanging with friends and family. I started at Ermington a couple months ago and absolutely love it. The children are fantastic and I can't wait to see what this year brings!!

Nicola

Hi I'm Nicola and I have been at Ermington OOSH for a couple of months now. I am studying to become a primary school teacher and I have grown up around performing arts, assisting children with drama and music. My job at OOSH is to ensure the children are safe and feel supported while in our care. I am looking forward to 2025 at this lovely centre!

Kadijah

Hi I am Kadijah and I have worked at OOSH for a little over a year now!! I am studying to become a teacher at university and I also work as a school learning support officer at another school. I am excited for all the new Kindy's and students this year as well as seeing familiar faces!

SUMMER VAC CARE

Luna Park

Today we adventured to Luna Park and took on all the rides. The children faced their fears and encouraged each other as much as they could. We had a beautiful day in the summer sun in the city. Some of their favourite rides included the Ferris wheel, the rotor and coney island.

Christmas at OOSH

Food, fun and celebrations...Christmas at OOSH!! On this date, the children joined the Educators in a Christmas lunch feast, games and fun as we had an early Christmas celebration. The room was decorated entirely and we even had a visit from the cheeky elves.

TruNinja

On this day, we headed to TruNinja in Penrith for a day of running, jumping and climbing through obstacles and challenges. This tested the children's upper body strength, balance, coordination and gross motor skills as they manoeuvred through the courses.

Splash, Splat, Sponge

A day filled with water activities and fun. We planned this day in preparation for the summer heat but unfortunately was hit with bad weather. The day still went on as we had a visit from a water incursion activity and had heaps of fun playing with water.

Educator Vs Children

Today we had our half yearly rivalry with the children to see who is the best. We went head to head in activities such as bin ball, minute to win it, duster hockey and much more! The Educators came out on top of course but the children practiced teamwork and communication skills, making it challenging for the Educators.

STEM day

Science, technology, engineering and maths day!! Today we had a science incursion which helped the children learn all about basic concepts in the world of science. They were encouraged to use problem solving and cognitive skills as they expanded their knowledge throughout the day.

Picnic and Park

A day at the park!! Unfortunately on this day we were hit with terrible weather so our trip to the park was super quick. The children still got to eat and have lunch and enjoy the outdoors. They then spent the rest of the day engaging in fun activities back at the centre.

Lollipops X Code Red

Run, jump, dodge, crawl and slide...All things we got up to today. A day filled with laughter and fun as we visited lollipops and Code red. This was definitely a favourite day during vac care. The children got to verse each other in laser tag and challenge themselves as they navigated through the arena. They also played group games and individually in lollipops playland.

Yoga and Spa

Sit back, relax and enjoy. Yoga and Spa day was all about relaxation and calmness, focusing on our self identities and being kind to ourselves and others.

Rock Climbing

The children were challenged to climb to new heights today and see how well they operate in the dark as they tackled rock climbing walls and the tunnels at Elevate Villa wood. Gross motor skills were further developed and tested as they were physically tested at the excursion.

Wheelchair Basketball

Wheelchair basketball is always a vacation care favourite! The children voiced thoroughly enjoying putting their catching and throwing skills to the test as well as their upper body muscles. This day helps to reinforce good sportsmanship and fairness but also helped to bring awareness to disabilities and alternative situations.

Minute to Win it

This day is evolved around activities that all last only a minute but test the children in different ways. Challenging but quick, the tasks require children to think and act quickly and use problem solving skills.

Trip to farm

The centre travelled to Golden Ridge Farm on this day and had a day surrounded by animals. This included holding baby animals, self guided touring around the farm, patting animals, milking a cow and asking lots and lots of questions.

Meet your Neighbours

A day all about the Māori Culture! We had a visit from Kotahi incursions who brought us a beautiful incursion all about Māori and their culture. This involved learning about the Haka, tribes and different aspects of their culture that is important to them.

Nerf Wars

Dodge, duck, shoot, weave, play!! Today we had a visit from a nerf incursion who brought little bunkers, nerf guns and materials for a nerf war. The children versed each other and Educators in an epic nerf war.

Wheels and Tech

The children spent the day riding around the school, creating obstacles, using their tech and more today. The day encouraged use of both fine and gross motor skills as well as interpersonal and communication.

360 action park

Today we jumped around at 360 action park as well as played laser tag. The children played a variety of games such as dodgeball, tip, who can jump the highest etc. They also exercised their sportsmanship and fairness as they tackled the laser tag arena.

Silent Disco/Slushy Day

This day was all about enjoying yummy slushies in the summer heat and dancing to tunes. The children enhanced their sense of identity, gained confidence and positively influenced their physical wellbeing as we had a visit from a silent disco incursion.

Zone Bowling

Bowling and arcade fun!! On this day we travelled to Zone Bowling Castle hill to verse each other in 2 rounds of bowling and had some arcade time. This utilised our coordination, patience and cognitive skills as we lined up the ramps and hit down as many pins as possible.

Fictional Character Day

The children dressed up as their favourite fictional character day today. We had some really creative characters attend and used our imagination and creativity in activities throughout the day.

Archie Brothers

This day involved a trip to Alexandria in the city to visit archie brothers, a retro arcade place. We had 2 hours to freely play with all the machines utilising fine and gross motor skills and concentration. We even got to verse in dodgem cars!!

Inflatable world

Inflatable world's excursion started off with some play time in the sports arena out at St Mary's before we bounced, jumped and slid on the inflatables.

Swap Meet

Swap meet day was all about learning to share and recycle toys. The children had the opportunity to swap toys and exchange memories they had. This day helped the children appreciate reusing items and understanding how we can be fair and share with one another.

Rashay's

A trip to top Ryde rashays...YUMMY!! We made our way to Rashays today and ate some yummy food and had a relaxing meal all together. We learnt about table manners and being respectful in public. We got to have ice cream too !!

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Enrolment and Orientation

Ermington OOSH accepts enrolments to the service for primary school age children in accordance with funding priorities and guidelines. An orientation process is in place for children and their families. The purpose of this is to:

- enable educators to meet and greet children and their families
- Provide essential operational information
- Form the foundation for a successful and caring partnership between home and the service.
- To help the children develop a sense of belonging, feel accepted, develop attachments and trust those who care for them (“My Time, Our Place, Outcome 1”)

Fees

Ermington OOSH sets fees in accordance with its annual budget in order to meet the income required to develop and maintain a quality service for children and families. We strive to ensure that our service is affordable and accessible to families in our community. The approved provider ratifies the budget annually, or as necessary, and monitors it carefully throughout the year.

Dropping off and picking up

We will ensure that children arrive at and leave the service in a manner that safeguards their health, safety and wellbeing. Educators will manage this by adhering to clear procedures regarding the delivery and collection of children, ensuring that families understand their requirements and responsibilities and accounting for the whereabouts of children at all times whilst in the service’s care.

Absent and Missing Children

Families are required to notify educators as early as possible if children will be absent from the service. Educators will record the absences on the roll. Families will be informed of their notifying responsibilities upon enrolment and through the parent handbook. If a child only attends after school care the families must notify educators when a child has returned from an absence so they know to expect the child at the service.

Should a child not arrive at the service educators will:

- Ask the other children of their knowledge of where the child might be
- Approach the school office and ask for information regarding the child’s attendance at school
- If the child was present at school, call the child’s authorised nominees at a suitable time to remind them of their notifying responsibilities and find out when they should expect the child to return to the service
- If the child was present at school and the other children and the school staff are unaware of their whereabouts, educators will ask the school staff for assistance in searching for the child in the school area. Ensure supervision is maintained for other children during this process.
- If the child is unable to be located, educators will return to the service and call the child’s authorised nominees to gain further information.
- Continue to call the authorised nominees on the contact list until contact has been made.
- Maintain contact with the authorised nominees until the child has been located.
- Continue to keep in contact with the school during this time
- Arrange for appropriate supervision of children at the service and will send an educator back to the school area to continue looking for the child.
- Follow up on any leads regarding children going to a friend’s home and check common places in the local area.
- If the child remains missing, contact the police and keep the authorised nominees and school informed of the situations.
- Educators will notify the Department of Education and Communities within 24 hours of the incident occurring.

Code of Conduct for Parents/Caregivers and Visitors

Service Name: Ermington OOSH

Ermington OOSH is committed to protecting children attending the service and staff and families at the Centre. The service strives to provide a child safe environment at all times and this code aims to provide parents/caregivers and visitors with certainty about what are acceptable standards of behaviour when attending this Centre. This Code will support parents/caregivers and visitors to respond in a way that supports the safety, welfare and wellbeing of staff, children and families at all times.

As a parent/caregiver of a child attending (insert name of Centre), you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during the times when you are present at the Centre.

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every staff member, management committee member, children and families regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
2. Be a positive role model.
3. Be courteous and respectful.
4. Use appropriate language at all times.
5. Remember that children learn best by example.
6. Do not attend the Centre if you are affected by illegal drugs or alcohol, or consume them while at the Centre.
7. Do not smoke at the Centre or surrounding areas.
8. Understand the repercussions if you breach, or are aware of any breaches of, this code of conduct.

PARENT CONTRACT (please sign)

I/We hereby support my/our child/rens enrolment at Ermington OOSH

I have carefully read this code of conduct, and accept responsibility for complying with it in all respects. I also agree that sanctions may be imposed should I/We breach any aspect of the Code of Conduct. These may include:

- Warnings, either verbal or in writing
- Permanent exclusion from the Centre
- Exclusion from the Centre for a period of time as set down by the Management Committee. Your child will still be able to attend the Centre, however, you must make arrangements for an authorised person to drop them off or collect them during the exclusion period. A meeting will be held with management to determine an appropriate course of action in order to move forward.
- Only photograph my own children and these photographs may not include other children or staff at the Centre.

I/We agree that while attending Ermington OOSH I/We will conduct myself/ourselves in a manner, which allows me/us to act as a positive role model to children, families and staff.

1. I/We will act respectfully and responsibly toward all staff, management, children and families. Abusive, insulting and offensive language or actions are unacceptable.
2. I will respect the facilities and equipment at (enter name of Centre).
3. I understand that verbal abuse and violent behavior towards any staff, management, children and families at all times is unacceptable and would make me liable to serious consequences (as is any sexual, racial and other form of harassment).

In order to provide a safe environment for staff, children, families and visitors at the Centre, management reserves the right to take appropriate action if this Code of Conduct is breached in any way.

I/We (parent(s) name), in supporting my child/ren (s) enrolment at Ermington OOSH, acknowledge that I have read and agree to comply with the above Parent/Caregiver Code of Conduct. I accept that breaches of the Code of Conduct will carry consequences as listed above.

Name _____

Signed _____

Date _____

CONTRIBUTING TO OUR RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Reconciliation NSW
Significant Dates

Survival Day - 26th January
This is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples cultures, languages, histories and strength. Events are held throughout Australia, they are an opportunity to promote truth-telling, understanding, respect, healing and reconciliation.

National Apology Day - 13th February
To mark the anniversary of the formal apology by the Parliament of Australia to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly the Stolen Generations, for past injustices.

Harmony Day - 21st March
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Harmony Day) celebrates the cultural diversity of Australia and the importance of inclusiveness, respect and sense of belonging for everyone.

National Close the Gap Day - 20th March
This is the annual event held to raise awareness about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health crisis in Australia, and promote equality in life expectancy and health status between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

National Sorry Day - 26th May
On Sorry Day thousands of Australians from all walks of life participate in memorial services, commemorative meetings, survival celebrations and community gatherings to honour and commemorate the Stolen Generations.

National Reconciliation Week - 27th May – 3rd June
This week commemorates two significant milestones in the Reconciliation Journey – the anniversary of the successful 1967 Referendum and the High Court Mabo Decision. It is a time to celebrate and learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and explore how each of us can contribute to the national Reconciliation effort.

Mabo Day – 3rd June
This marks the anniversary of the High Court's historic decision, led by Eddie Koiki Mabo, which overturned the legal fiction of terra nullius and recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the original custodians of this land.

Coming of the Light – 1st July
The anniversary of the day London Missionary Society arrived in the Torres Strait for the first time. Torres Strait Islanders people mark this day by holding cultural ceremonies.

National NAIDOC Week – Early July
NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. Held from the first Sunday to the second Sunday in July, this week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day – 4th August
This is a day to reflect on the human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children: their right to be educated, cared for, protected, and to have the opportunity to understand and practice their culture.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples – 9th August
This day affirms the importance of protecting and promoting the rights of Indigenous peoples all around the world. It also celebrates their unique contributions and diverse, rich cultures.

Reconciliation NSW
t: (02) 8095 9600
e: info@nswreconciliation.org.au
Ground Floor, 27 Cope Street, Redfern, NSW 2016



How we speak about reconciliation is just as important as the actions we take. Language is active and impacts attitudes, understandings and relationships.

Using respectful and inclusive language and terminology is an essential part of reconciliation and strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples and the wider Australian community.



AT OUR CENTRE:

We have recently engaged in activities that incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. For example, shrink art and sand art as activities which promote the children to be culturally sensitive while understanding and celebrating the culture.

This aligns with the 'My Time, Our Place' framework:

- 'Educators think deeply and seek assistance where possible, through engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, about how to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in the philosophy of the setting, their planning and implementation of curriculum'
- 'The history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are respectfully and truthfully reflected through community involvement and culturally sensitive practices.'

