



Sandhills Early Childhood Centre

waitlist information

Sandhills Early Childhood Centre is a vibrant and nurturing community with a focus on nature, sustainability, creativity and wellbeing. The image of the child is a fundamental motivation at Sandhills. Children are our primary stakeholders and we are driven by their best interests.

We view young children as competent and capable beings, navigating their most formative years. We know that the right side of the brain (emotions, imagination and creativity) develops first and we create environments that encourage children to express themselves, wonder, dream and invent. By building on children's strengths and interests, we engage them in lifelong investigative learning.

We are a not-for-profit service operated by Byron Shire Council, promoting a flexible and emergent program that encourages collaboration with children, families, and colleagues.

We offer education and care for children aged from 0-5 years in the heart of Byron Bay and are licensed to accommodate up to 59 children across four rooms each day. Nutritious lunches, morning and afternoon teas are provided.

Our service is open for 50 weeks of the year, excluding all gazetted NSW public holidays, and is closed for two weeks during the Christmas/New Year period. We are open 7.30am – 5.30pm.

We have four different and unique learning spaces. Each room title is a Bundjalung word – Burbi (koala) nursery, Mani (wallaby) toddlers, Winyum (sand crab) junior preschool (3 – 4years), Gabul (carpet python) preschool (year before school).



We strive to nurture each child's sense of belonging as a part of a strong connected community, ensuring a safe and supportive environment.

Our vision embraces a collaborative team of educators in partnership with children, families, and the wider community. We celebrate the uniqueness that each child brings with them and value their contributions.

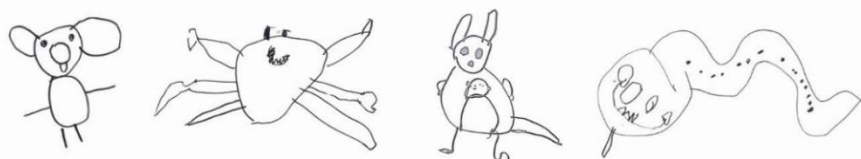
We nurture respect and responsibility for both our social connections and natural world arounds us. Together we share knowledge and discoveries, fostering deeper awareness and understanding.

Our responsive and attuned educators are active participants in learning alongside children; building environments for inquiry and providing endless opportunities to explore their creativity and sense of wonder.

We welcome our children and families into our nurturing and vibrant community. We delight in the beauty of our locality, grateful for the coastal reserves that surround us, and for the native trees that home an abundance of wildlife and provide a mystical wonderland for imaginative play and freedom.

At the heart of everything we do is our commitment to the Child Safe Standards, fostering a culture of safety and wellbeing that ensures a secure environment where all children feel safe, valued, supported, and enhance their sense of security and belonging.

We are guided by Belonging, Being and Becoming (the Early Years Learning Framework), the National Quality Standards, Child Safe Standards, United Nations Convention on The Rights of the Child and our Seven Core Pillars. The service was assessed in 2021 as "meeting" against the National Quality Framework.



Our services and fees (2024/25)

Our fees enable us to provide a rich and diverse program for the children. We provide three nutritionally balanced meals each day, sun block, excursions and incursions.

Waiting List Fee (non-refundable)	\$20
Inclusions Levy	\$120
Fundraising Levy	\$100
Burbi/Mani Rooms	\$140 per day (2024/25)
Winyum/Gabul Rooms	\$135 per day (2024/25)

Two weeks' notice is required for any changes in your child's attendance pattern – either permanent withdrawal or a reduction in days.

Childcare rebates are available. It is the parent's responsibility to have their income assessed if they wish to apply for Child Care Subsidy. Application is made through Department of Social Services (Centrelink).

Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday 7.30am – 5.30pm. The centre is open throughout the year, closing only for approximately two weeks around Christmas/New Year.

Joining our service

We are happy to provide a tour of our service – please contact the office to arrange a suitable time. You are welcome to complete a waiting list application.

We maintain a waiting list based on priorities and when spaces are available we offer them to families. From September we start organising our enrolments for the following year and will be in contact with families then.

Once you are offered a place, we will organise an orientation interview with the lead educator for your child's room. There will also be documentation to complete before this interview – enrolment form, additional information, medical conditions, immunisation and birth certificate and access documents. To ease your child into the service we offer "play and stay" visits.

Sandhills Early Childhood Centre waiting list form

Child's Name			
Date of Birth		Sex:	Age:
Immunisation Status	In accordance with the Public Health Act (1991) all families are required to provide an AIR Immunisation Certificate before being enrolled at the Centre. Sandhills does not accept children who are not immunized.		
	My child is fully immunised	Yes	No – sorry we are unable to accept your application.
Parent/Guardian Names			
Residential Address			
Email Address			
Mobile Phone		Date of Application	

No. of Days Care Required: (minimum 2) 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

Preferred Days (must include a Monday or Friday):

☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday

There is evidence based research to suggest that attendance on sequential days strengthens children's learning. Please consider this when choosing your preferred days.

When would you like your child to commence? _____

PRIORITY FOR CARE: (Please tick)

There are no mandatory requirements for filling vacancies, and providers can set their own policies for prioritizing who receives a place. However, as vacancies arise, we do consider children based on the following categories.

Please select which option below relates to your circumstances:

- ☐ Priority 1: A child at risk of serious abuse or neglect.
- ☐ Priority 2: Working or studying parents (evidence required which may include eligibility for Child Care Subsidy, pay slip, university enrolment)
- ☐ Priority 3: Neither of the above.

Placing a child's name on our waiting list unfortunately does not guarantee a position at any time for a child. A \$20 non-refundable fee applies to all waiting list applications.

As there is a heavy demand for places in the centre, you are asked to notify us immediately if your child no longer requires care, or if there are any changes to the information on this form, ie. address, phone numbers, priority status.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Office Use Only

Application Fee: