



Inspiring children to
Think. Explore. Connect.

Never Stand Still

University Services

Early Years





A bit about us

We are 4 day care services, owned and operated by UNSW Australia. With a history dating back to 1969, each centre has been established to enable staff and students to achieve their study and career aspirations.

With diverse and inviting early learning campuses including; Owl's House, Tigger's Honeypot, the House at Pooh Corner, and Kanga's House, we educate and care for 289 children from infants to school age every day.

We have lived and breathed early childhood education and care (ECEC) for over 45 years and are continuously learning about children. We have accumulated an abundance of experience, knowledge, diverse capabilities and our respect for society's youngest citizens sees us build strong relationships with each child attending Early Years.

Being part of UNSW opens your child's world to all the university has to offer; interacting with various faculties and schools, easy access to the university health services and connecting with leading researchers, academics and professional staff. Children participate in excursions on and around campus and being so close to families, they can even stop by to say hello.

We're a great group of committed, dedicated and professional educators that have been awarded for excellence and over 60% of our team has worked with us for over 7 years.

Whether you are a university staff member, domestic or international student or part of the wider community, we've got a centre to suit your needs.

A few things we're proud of

Here are just some of the reasons families from all over Australia and the world choose us.

- Award winning staff with long tenure
- 4 unique long day care centres
- Convenient to Kensington campus
- Diverse global community
- Achieves Exceeding National Standards (ACECQA)

Australian Family Early Education and Care Awards

2014 National early childhood educator of the year
2014 State early childhood educator of the year

ASG National Excellence in Teaching Award

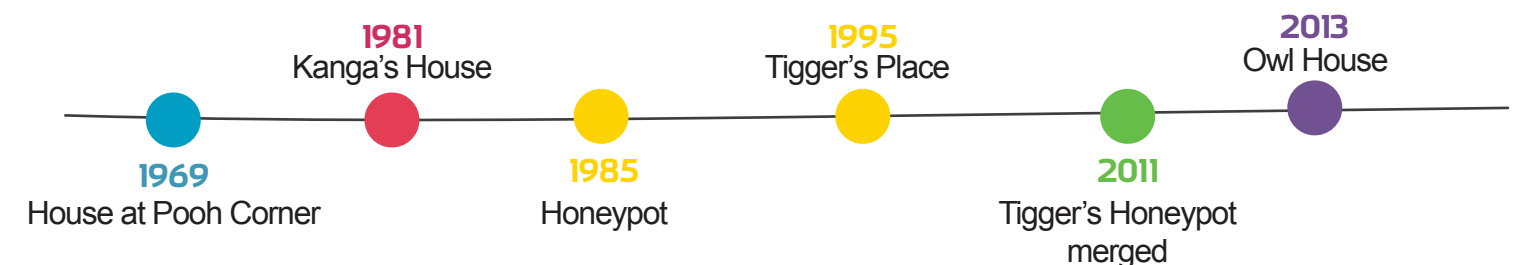
2013 Australian scholarships group award for community engagement

Early Childhood Australia and Macarthur Scholarship for Leadership

2014 Scholarship

At the heart of what we're about

- Innovative and reflective practices
- Fostering strong relationships
- Love of lifelong learning
- Creating a safe, healthy and happy environment
- Delivering child centred learning programs



"Your staff members are educators, first and foremost. It is clear they put thought and effort into their pedagogical approaches and teaching content. I am continually amazed and grateful at how dedicated your staff are to my son and his peers. Their care and love for the children is obvious." - Parent

Our Philosophy

We believe in giving families and children the best start in life using our progressive high-quality approach to learning through nurturing strong and secure relationships to ensure children remain at the heart of everything we do.



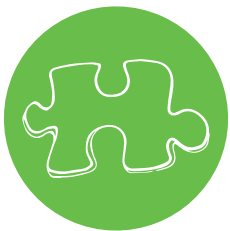
Think

Discover our innovative educational play based and transition to school programs validated by the Early Years Learning Framework of Australia (EYLF)



Explore

Experience stimulating developmental opportunities to inspire children’s growth in all key learning areas so they may navigate skilfully through life’s journey



Connect

Encourage children to become active global citizens through the cultivation of meaningful links with their peers, “grown-ups”, the natural world and beyond

“The philosophy at Early Years is not just a piece of paper on the wall - its dynamic, its alive, its constantly evolving and it’s threaded through everything we do. It keeps up with current research and is a unique blend of international perspectives, contemporary theories, methodologies and evidence-based practice” - *Educator*

We value and encourage child-led learning



We embrace inclusivity and celebrate diversity



We nurture trusting and meaningful relationships



We connect and engage with communities



We strive for excellence



We promote sustainable practices



We create positive and stimulating experiences

Our educational program

We provide stimulating environments and thoughtful experiences to inspire and encourage children’s exploration and growth in all aspects including social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.

Our educational play based curriculum and transition to school program is supported by the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF).

EYLF is Australia’s first national framework for early childhood educators based on principles, practises and outcomes that enhance learning from birth to school age. We’re proud of achieving ‘exceeding’ in the National Quality Framework assessments, which comes from notching up over 45 years experience in the ECEC sector.

Through play children are able to construct knowledge, build new understandings and extend their inherent curiosity and capabilities. We plan for children to have fun through planned and spontaneous play based learning.

We cater for all ages, abilities and needs. From intimate groups and one on one time for babies, to smaller group activity and larger play areas for toddlers, and progressing to greater independent experiences for our preschoolers.



Transistion to school

We believe that every moment for a child is a learning opportunity which builds on past experiences and scaffolds future knowledge construction. As such our ‘transition to school program’ starts from the first moment you walk through our door.

Our innovative curriculum equips children for ‘big school’ beyond just reading, writing and arithmetic. Included also are the arts, science, history, environmental studies, indigenous Australian culture, contemporary issues and social justice. We recognise, respond to and support children’s emotional and social wellbeing to help them become familiar with what to expect during this transition. Example experiences include:

- **Sign in sheet:** recognise and sign their names off upon arrival
- **Meetings:** children discuss plans for the day, get to know peers and take turns in talking and listening
- **Interviews & visits:** our school leavers who moved on to school return to answer children’s questions about their transition to school experience
- **School visits:** educators arrange visits to enrolled schools so children can experience and show their new school to peers
- **Lunch box days:** children bring a packed lunch on allocated days to practice opening lunch boxes and food packaging
- **School uniform days:** practice wearing school uniforms and self help skills opening and closing backpacks
- **Orientation experiences:** children share experiences of days and information packs from their school as a group
- **Information evenings:** sessions for families with guest speakers



“The transition to school program was very detailed and well implemented. Scheduled events, afternoon tea with school leavers, school visits, lunch box days and information discussions happen on daily basis.”- Parent

Our Team

We believe that staff-child relationships are integral to high quality care.

28
is the number of languages our team speak.

We value our university trained teachers and our qualified educators as our greatest assets. Each play a significant role in supporting children’s learning through intentional teaching and reflective practice. These extend and challenge each individual child’s knowledge, desire to learn, and develop problem solving, communication, social, investigation and innovation skills.

35%
have been with us for more than 10 years.

We know that staff-child relationships are the cornerstone to high quality care and the best outcomes for your child. We employ staff that reflect the diversity of our greater community and operate with higher than average educator to child ratios.

It’s not by chance that we enjoy a high staff retention rate and low staff turnover. We provide each educator with regular professional development and training to keep up to date with the latest research and sector benchmarks. They enjoy family friendly flexible work arrangements, career progression opportunities across our centres as well as a strong culture of mentoring and support.

10 years +
is how long each of our centre directors have been with us.

Our team is passionate about working together. We have regular team meetings and ample opportunities for cross-centre collaboration to share best practice and incubate ‘next practice’. We’re a diverse team with a mix of gender, cultures, backgrounds, lifestyles and hidden talents that bring our philosophy to life every day.

Each centre team is made up of university trained teachers, qualified educators, a director, administration team and a dedicated onsite chef. All are on hand to support your child’s early years development.

1998
is when our General Manager started with us.



*Based on 2013 data.

Our Centre: Owl's House

Progressive campus designed as a house by children.

Contemporary campus, purposefully designed by children with children in mind. We've embraced a long list of requests such as windows at eye level to see the outside world, a theatre for performances and open shared play areas throughout the centre.

Owl's House is leading the new generation of ECEC centre design and approach to early childhood learning through communal spaces allowing multiple ages to explore and use all areas, alongside each other.

Our many stimulating play spaces spread across 2 houses, 4 levels and 3 outdoor areas and provide a range of experiences, play and teaching for all our children.

Owl's House



"My experience and interactions with the staff and educators at Owl's House have been enjoyable and rewarding. They always go above and beyond to provide the upmost care and attention. Being an active member of the Parent's Committee has enabled me to engage with the wider community of parents to foster and support the philosophy of Owl's House." - *Parent*



Rooms:

Children in two groups, birth-2 years and 2-5 years move across our 6 play spaces. Each space is resourced to create a range of learning possibilities. Small groups of children learn across all play spaces in familiar and adaptive routines according to their ages and interests, and our educators respond to changing needs through intentional teaching planning and practices.

Our 2 garden play spaces are complimented by the use of the Shaw Reserve local park right on our doorstep.

The newest and most progressive centre opened in 2013.

Capacity: 48 children per day
Located: Residential area of Kingsford
Hours: 8am to 6pm

Our Centre: Tigger's Honey pot

Vibrant and stimulating with the ultimate children's wonder garden.

The central playground is surrounded by vast grassy lawns and a mini woodland to explore. Children feed and care for our resident chickens as well as plant and harvest their own produce in our blossoming vegetable patches. All planned to develop understandings, appreciation and connections to our natural environment and local cultures.

Children visit their older friends at the aged facility Milford House to paint, sculpt, sing, laugh and share stories.

Our 4 rooms offer children time to interact in separate age groups for specifically targeted learning experiences, as well educators plan opportunities with mixed age groups so the children can learn from each other.

Tigger's Honey pot



"It is a wonderful centre with fantastic staff that really care about you and your child - which is very important to parents who have to leave their children to go to work. Tigger's Place is one of the major reasons I have continued to work at UNSW." - *Parent*



Rooms:

- Burrai room: birth to 16 months
- Billabong room: 16 months to 2½ years
- Narra room: 2½ to 4 years
- Jarjums room: 4 to 6 years

Respecting the traditional custodians of the land in which the centre is situated Tigger's Honey pot aim to learn from the traditions and culture of the Aboriginal Australians. We embrace diversity and social justice which form integral components of our centre's philosophy and culture.

Tigger's Honey pot became one centre following the amalgamation of 2 centres, Tigger's Place and Honey pot, in 2011.

Capacity: 70 children per day
Located: Just off campus in Randwick
Hours: 8.15am to 6pm

Our Centre: Kanga's House

A vibrant and fun environment filled with activity and learning.

The expansive playground is the hub of all activity at Kanga's House. From singing performances, building sandcastles, climbing the cubby house and slide to painting, quiet book corners, creative zones and eating lunch, it's a space thoughtfully planned to accommodate all different types of play.

The largest of our centres, families experience a variety of 6 different rooms. Each room leads off from the central playground with each age group having their own dedicated play areas.

Comprising a wide variety of cultural backgrounds, we highly value children's independence, building resilience and developing a positive self esteem.

Kanga's House



"Since joining UNSW Kanga's House this year we have found the standard of care outstanding. I think the standard of care and concern for our children at Kanga's is wonderful"- *Parent*



Rooms:

- Clouds: 3 to 22 months
- Comets: 3 to 22 months
- Stars: 23 months to 2½ years
- Rainbows: 2½ to 3 years
- Moons: 3 to 4 years
- Suns: 4 to 5 years

Opened in 1981 and has continued to grow its capacity and facilities over the years to be the largest UNSW long day care centre.

Capacity: 99 children per day
Located: Opposite gate 14
Hours: 8am to 6pm

Our Centre: House at Pooh Corner

Warm and welcoming home-like favourite right on campus.

Inviting and friendly, we are fortunate to be located right on campus overlooking the village green, so children enjoy direct access to explore the university grounds and all that is on offer.

We have a rich and long standing heritage with students of UNSW. House at Pooh Corner attracts many international families, providing our children with countless great experiences of different cultures and multiple languages, making friends from all over the world.

The playground is designed to stimulate play, exploration and imagination. It provides opportunities for indoor and outdoor play as each of the kindergarten rooms open onto it. For our youngest participants the nursery playground provides a safe and secure area for our younger children.

House at Pooh Corner



"My child has a wonderful learning experience at House at Pooh Corner, and just loves it and is really fond of his teachers. HPC has been just plain wonderful. 3 cheers for the staff at House at Pooh Corner"- *Parent*



Rooms:

- Nursery room: birth to 2 years
- K2 room: 2 - 3 years
- K3 room: 3 - 4 years
- K4 room: 4 - school age

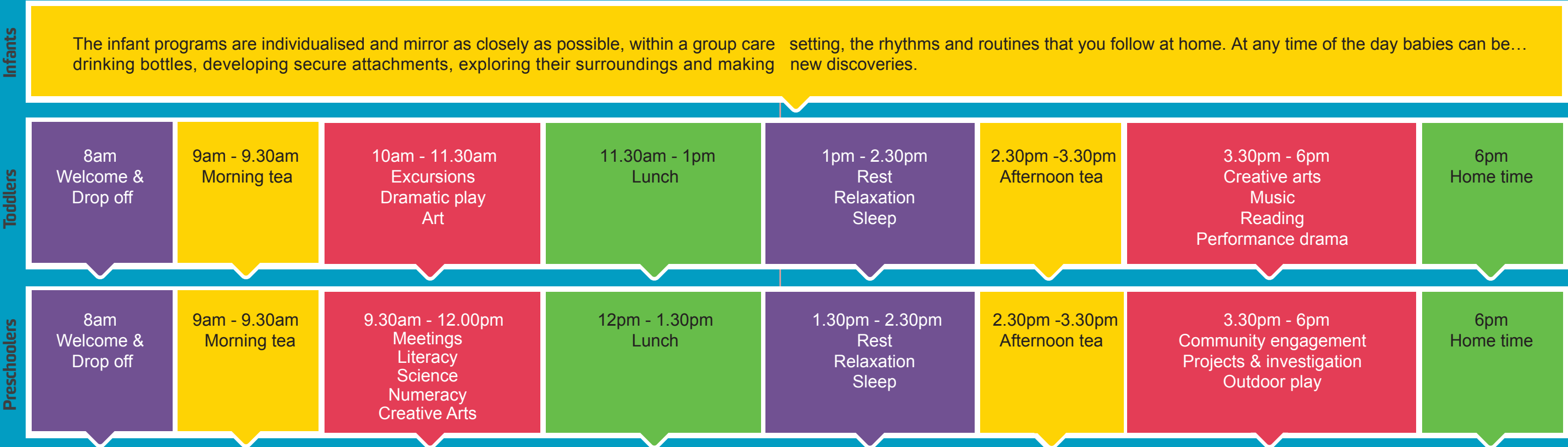
The first university day care centre established by the UNSW Students Guild in 1969 in response to growing need to accessible, affordable and quality day care.

Capacity: 72 children per day
Located: On campus opposite village green
Hours: 8am to 6pm

Every day is unique...just like us...

Children are at the heart of our daily program.

We facilitate child centred curriculum. We offer a wide variety of play based educational experiences and programs which develop into ongoing projects and investigations. Here is a snapshot showing a typical day for the different ages of children attending our centres, which is structured around wholesome nutrition and holistic wellness.



Excursions

We make the most of our surrounds and strive to be visible and active in our communities. Some of our trips include:

- Visit local aged care homes
- Attend local schools
- Explore the university campus
- Discover local parks, museums, art galleries
- Visit other Early Years centres

Health and wellness

Your child’s wellbeing is paramount and we arrange a variety of support services for families across our centres:

- Referral services and resources
- Visits from speech therapists
- Arrange eye testing
- Onsite occupational therapy sessions for individual children
- Visits from Tumbatin
- Work with Learning Links for multidisciplinary support
- Bi-cultural support services

Meals

Meal times are not only about filling our bellies with tasty food and learning about nutrition, but a time to share in one and others’ stories and conversations.

Sample Menu

	Spring/Summer		Autumn/Winter	
Morning Tea	Apple bircher muesli served with Greek yoghurt and fresh berries	French toast with banana and cinnamon ricotta	Wholemeal Turkish toast served with chicken, cheese and spinach	Banana and cinnamon porridge topped with Greek yoghurt and warm rhubarb compote
Lunch	Legume risoni served with steamed green beans and broccoli	Roast chicken served with creamy polenta, sesame carrots and wilted bok choy	Moroccan lamb tagine served with fragrant cous cous and seasonal greens	Crumbed barramundi served with kumara mash and sweet corn
	Spinach, cheese and tomato frittata	Tzatiki and hummus served with cherry tomatoes, blanched green beans, carrot and celery	Falafel and baba ganoush served with flatbread	Winter root vegetables and lentil soup

- Drinking water is available all day
- Milk and formula are served as required
- Special diets and allergies catered for daily
- Onsite chefs prepare delicious and healthy seasonal menus

How we interact with families

Communication

Communicating with families is essential in building positive relationships and providing first class care for your child. We do this in a number of ways including:

- Day books for children with notes, stories and photos
- Photo screens capturing daily experiences
- Centre Directors and family relations team
- Family comment book
- Family/Staff room meetings
- Family/Teacher meetings
- Family Committees
- Regular surveys for family feedback

We respect the family as the expert caregiver of their child and value the diversity of families that form part of our community. We complement the role of the family in a child’s life by encouraging family participation in the centres including decision-making. Our team are available every day to discuss your family and child’s needs.

Prior to starting Community

To help settle and transition your child into one of our centres smoothly, prior to commencing at Early Years we offer:

- Centre tour
- Centre orientation visits
- Home visits to help transition
- Families social events

We hold regular social events and gatherings at our centres for our families to meet and get to know each other, and enjoy festivities with your children

- Family BBQs
- Working bees
- Morning & afternoon teas
- Special calendar events
- Entertainers
- Centre excursions
- Charity fundraisers

“I’ve been really impressed with the authentic way in which the educators have nurtured a strong and trusting relationship with my child. Whether it’s phone calls, face-to-face conversations, emails, daybooks, meetings or newsletters the lines of communication are always open!” - *Parent*



Early Years



Become part of Early Years

If you have any enquiries about our services, please get in touch.

Phone: +61 (2) 9385 0054
Email: earlyyears@unsw.edu.au
Website: earlyyears.unsw.edu.au
FAQs: earlyyears.unsw.edu.au/faqs

Early Years is a popular choice not only for staff and student families, but we're also open to the wider community.

Places are limited so we recommend joining our waitlist as soon as possible by registering via our website.