



•Milkwood•
Steiner School

2024 Playgroup Handbook



*Thank you dear Earth, for the ground that I stand on,
Thank you dear Sun, for your warmth and your light,
Thank you dear Wind, for your precious cool breezes,
Thank you dear rain, for the cool of the night,
Blessings on Larrakia Land.*

Milkwood Steiner School (Djandjag)

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About Milkwood

Milkwood Steiner School is situated on Larrakia land (Darwin), in the tropical north of Australia delivering a Steiner Curriculum to 150 students from Kindergarten to Class 8. Our school has unique large tropical style buildings with classrooms that open out on to broad verandas, with a playground that extends to a beautiful native bushland. We are a thriving, growing school, with a welcoming community and children from diverse cultural backgrounds.

At Milkwood, we believe that childhood is sacred. Our community believes in the rights of all to dignity, growth, and community care. In an increasingly materialistic world, we value imagination, creativity and spirit. Our community was founded with courage, hope and a sense of responsibility. We seek to embody these in all we do.

Program

Milkwood's beginnings were as a Playgroup and they continue to nourish our families. Playgroups are the best way to become familiar with Steiner Education, build a community with like minded families and provide an example to your children of how to work in community.

Milkwood Playgroups are held in a home-like environment which nurtures the senses. Our program is play-based with rhythmical qualities incorporating songs, stories, rhymes, and seasonal festivals. Our aim is to create a peaceful haven for a child's development to naturally unfold and where both parent and child can experience the joy of meaningful connections.

Milkwood Steiner School offers Playgroups for children 0-4 years of age with their parent/ caregiver, running throughout the week.



Playgroup is located on the school grounds and operates from 8.30-10.30am during the school term.

During Playgroup time, we bake our own delicious fresh bread rolls. Families bring a piece of fruit which is shared for morning tea along with our bread.

We have time for indoor and outdoor play each morning.

Staff



Playgroup Leader: *Lucy Neville*

Lucy's professional experience includes a range of teaching work in schools, as a music specialist, in areas of inclusion and disability, and as a residential carer.

Lucy explains however that it has been her time as a mother that has truly strengthened her commitment to working with children and families as her purpose; she values the opportunity to walk alongside and listen to parents as they navigate the early years of parenthood, with imagination and creativity. Lucy describes her Steiner playgroups as a space in which the child has safe and secure time to immerse themselves in play and the gentle rhythms of the morning, as well as giving the parents a warm and inclusive space to be with their children

and other families as they question, learn and grow. Lucy has worked at Yandell Steiner Kindergarten, while furthering her formal learning in Steiner Early Childhood development. As a residential carer at Wesley Mission and in Integration Support roles in schools, Lucy describes the honour of working with children living with Trauma and Neurodiversity.

Policies and Code of Conduct

Playgroup participants adhere to Milkwood Steiner School Association's policies and code of conduct. The safety and wellbeing of all who attend is paramount.

Enrolment/Bookings and Fee Schedule

Milkwood's Playgroup exists to offer a Term-long experience of Steiner early childhood education and care, to parents of young children. Our Playgroups are very popular and book out each Term. We want as many families as possible to have an experience of this program. Some families will attend for 1 Term, and others will enrol in it for several Terms over the first four years of their child's life. There is no limit to how many times you can enrol in Playgroup, and Playgroup bookings are for 1 Term only, to allow all families a fair chance to experience this rich program.

Bookings for the upcoming Term open at 9am on Monday of Week 4, each term. All families who have attended the term prior and all families on the waitlist will be emailed on this date to book in for the following term.

To book in/enrol please email admin@milkwood.nt.edu.au and provide:

- your day preference (Tuesday or Thursday)
- your full name
- your child/ren's date of birth
- your child/ren's full name
- your best contact phone number and email for Playgroup communications.

The cost is \$210/family per Term. The invoice issued by Milkwood will be the offer of a place for you and your family in Playgroup for the school Term. Families pay the fee in advance to secure their place. If you haven't received a place in Playgroup the Term requested, please try again the following Term!

For more information, or to enrol your family in Playgroup, contact admin@milkwood.nt.edu.au / 8947 0608