



thegreenelephant.com.au

WELCOME TO THE GREEN ELEPHANT EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

At The Green Elephant, we aim to provide the highest quality standard of education and care for the children and families enrolled. We are committed to promoting a warm, loving and nurturing environment where children are empowered to explore, discover and learn to their full potential.

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS



ABOUT US

We are a family owned and operated centre and having three young children of our own, understand the importance of providing an environment where children feel safe and secure much like home.

We realise the level of trust you place in us when enrolling your child. Our promise to you is that we are committed to providing the highest quality standard of care and education possible.

Family is paramount to us and working with families and young children is what we love to do. Creating the best opportunities for children, where they are encouraged to explore, learn and develop in a loving and nurturing environment is our goal.

Each and every child at The Green Elephant is important to us and we welcome you to join our family. We look forward to meeting you and your child soon.



OUR PHILOSOPHY

At The Green Elephant our philosophy is to provide the highest level of care and education for your child in a warm, nurturing and safe environment. By creating a feeling of acceptance and sense of belonging, we provide an environment which enables each child to feel safe and secure.

The Green Elephant provides educationally appropriate and stimulating programs to assist in

- confidence, curiosity and imagination
- independence and self-esteem
- respect for themselves and others
- friendly and caring behaviour
- their full potential both emotionally and physically
- foster and reinforce self control
- an understanding and appreciation of the rights and feelings of other people

"Play provides opportunities for children to learn, as they discover, create, improvise and imagine. Children's immersion in their play illustrates how play enables them to simply enjoy being."

EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK, 2009

the development of the whole child, their physical, social, emotional, cognitive, creative and moral growth. Indoor and Outdoor experiences are provided in small and large group situations. These experiences cater for each child's individual development and reflect current interests of the group or an individual child. We recognize the value of play on development. Research has found that children attain higher levels of achievement through engaging in play.

Our educational play-based programs assist each child to build and develop at their own individual rate with guidance and support by our passionate educators:

Our programs also reflect the full appreciation of Australia's multicultural society, enhancing the children's awareness of, and respect for, cultural differences and similarities. Our programs are designed to help your child in developing all areas for success now and in later years and to equip them with the necessary tools to deal with life.

The Green Elephant Early Learning Centre endeavors to create a "family-like" atmosphere and recognise the importance of creating a link between home and the Centre, where parents, educators and the community work in partnership to develop the child as a whole in a mutually supportive and caring environment.



OUR CENTRE

The Green Elephant is a beautifully designed purpose built centre that provides inspiring learning and play spaces for the children. Each area has been tailored to meet each age groups level of development and offers a wonderful environment where children can learn and explore.

Our indoor learning spaces promote constructive activity and purposeful exploration. These areas are organised to allow easy flow between activities, creating a sense of order, a feeling of belonging and opportunities both for solo contemplation and for children to collaborate with others as they choose.

Creativity is extremely important for a child's healthy mental development and should be encouraged at every opportunity. Children are born predisposed to be creative. It is our job to nurture children's creativity and allow it to flourish and find expression using a range of media. For this reason we have a purpose built performing arts / music room for all the children to explore and express themselves in.

Our wonderful outdoor learning spaces offer opportunities for children to learn, explore and feel are part of where they are. We nurture in children a love of nature and desire to preserve, protect and enhance the natural world around them. Our natural outdoor environment features trees and plants, edible gardens, sandpits, areas that invite play, quiet spaces where the children can sit and reflect, slides, natural timber cubby houses music elements and water elements.

We are centrally located in Rosebery close to public transport. The Green Elephant operates five days a week from 7.00am to 6.00pm and caters for children aged from 0- 6 years. We have secure undercover parking and state of the art security system for the safety and security of all our families.

We have a team of nutritionists who have tailored a healthy 6 week rotating meal plan prepared in our kitchen by our wonderful chef daily. Meals are eaten in our dining room where the children are encouraged to interact.

We welcome you to our centre and promise that we at The Green Elephant will endeavour to give your child the best experiences and learning opportunities available.





OUR TEAM

At The Green Elephant we believe that our Educators are our greatest asset, and as a result, pride ourselves on the quality of the team we choose for our centre. Our dedicated Educators are carefully chosen and have the appropriate experience and qualifications to ensure quality care for your child.

We have Educators of all ages and each brings their own unique experience, personality and a little bit of magic. Most importantly the motivation and individual strengths of every member is equally as important as their qualifications.

All our Educators are friendly, welcoming, helpful and supportive and have the compassion and patience needed to give your child the level of care they deserve.

Complimenting our wonderful Educators is Dr Brenda Abbey from Childcare by Design. Dr Abbey has more than 30 years' experience in the early childhood sector.

Munchkins Paediatric Nutritionist who have tailored a healthy 6 week rotating meal plan for our centre.

Dr Kristy Goodwin, one of Australia's leading children's technology and brain researcher, who helps our Educators discover how young children learn and develop in a digital age.

HEALTHY EATING

Creating healthy eating habits from a young age is an essential part of life long health and wellbeing. At The Green Elephant we nourish young tummies with the goodness they need to help your child grow both physically and mentally to their greatest potential.

Our six week menu cycle has been developed by our qualified Nutritionists, Rebecca Emmett and Erin Gillard of *Munchkin Nutrition and Dietetics*, with your children's nutritional needs as the top priority.

We believe food offered to your child should be wholesome, natural, rich in nutrients, tasty and fun! So we encourage children to learn about food, where it comes from and why eating healthy makes us feel so good.

We know what an important role nutrition plays in supporting healthy, optimal growth and development, and this is why we have made it our responsibility to provide your child with meals and snacks which are full of nutrients, vitamins and minerals essential for growing bodies and learning minds.

It is our goal to:

- Help children develop healthy eating habits from a young age
- Provide a positive eating environment
- Provide a wide and nourishing variety of foods from all of the core food groups
- Support a good relationship with food
- Encourage children to try new foods, new

colours and new textures

- Provide meals and snacks that
 - fuel the body with long lasting energy
 - deliver the vitamins and minerals needed to support normal growth and development
 - boost the immune system and help our cells and organs function to their greatest ability.

Having our qualified Nutritionists and Chef on board means we can cater for children with allergies and food intolerances such as egg, nut, dairy and coeliac disease. Vegetarian options are also available at each meal and snack.

At The Green Elephant we cater for breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and a late snack. Our meals and snacks are healthy, tasty and fun. We encourage tasting plates, finger foods and meal times that children remember and talk about. We enjoy meals together around a table, creating a sense of community and belonging.

The Green Elephant is a breastfeeding friendly centre. Our policy encourages mothers to continue breastfeeding as long as they wish.

It is our belief that fresh, wholesome and nourishing food, along with an active lifestyle, a sense of belonging and plenty of opportunities to learn are essential for life long health and wellness.

A day in the life of a toddler at The Green Elephant could include:

Breakfast

Kiddies Hot Breakfast

Veggie packed hash browns and crunchy wholemeal toast

Morning Tea

The rainbow plate

Apple twirls, banana sticks and strawberry zig zags and brown rice crackers with avocado dip

Lunch

Quinoa crusted fish fingers with steamed vegies

Afternoon Tea

Mini blueberry and apple muffins and a fruity smoothie with Chia seeds

Late Snack:

Dinosaur slice
zucchini slice





OUR CURRICULUM

Here at The Green Elephant Early Learning Centre we believe that no child should go without. With this in mind we have adopted a holistic approach to education where our educators work closely with the children to develop a play based program that is enriching and encourages collaborating with peers, making choices while building on their strengths and emerging skills. The experiences we offer foster children's social, creative, language, cognitive and physical skills.

The Learning Programs at The Green Elephant are centered around the principles and outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework which focuses on children's interests, strengths and individual needs. Complementing the framework are our 8 key Elephant Programs. These include:

Fit Elephant, Tongue-Tied Elephant, Creative Elephant, Boogie Elephant, Safe Elephant, Hi-Tech Elephant, Healthy Elephant and Big School Elephant.

All these programs are included in the fee structure, exposing the children to a diverse range of activities and giving every child the best possible opportunity in the most critical learning years of their life.

We believe that by offering our children a wide variety of opportunities, resources and interactions, we are creating and facilitating a developmentally appropriate curriculum where children are encouraged to develop and learn at their own pace.

We are committed to providing an educational program which is inspired and guided by the unique interests, strengths and actions of all children, as well as by the spontaneous events that occur every day.

FIT ELEPHANT

Fit Elephant is a fun, physical program that helps kids develop into strong, healthy, confident children with a love of life and a passion for their world. Central to the program are the concepts of fun, friends and fitness. The program is designed to assist children in developing important physical skills, as well as environmental, nutritional and safety awareness.

Fit Elephant focuses on developing fine and gross motor skills, to assist children to develop core physical skills, while also building fitness. This introduces children to a love of physical activity and the outdoors.

Fit Elephant is designed to cater for the necessary developmental stages of children, preparing them for their schooling years, in a fun environment. The program consists of numerous fun and challenging activities, incorporating the use of balls, ropes, cones, hoops and balloon games. This full body workout will have the kids crawling, ducking, weaving and jumping all to our jungle animal moves. Our lessons lay the foundation to all sporting activities developing fine and gross motor skills.

Fit Elephant makes a difference to children's lives, encouraging friendships and love of fitness, as well as teaching skills and topics such as:

Jungle Fitness

Remember Tarzan? He was strong, fit and ready for anything. Fit Elephant develops jungle fitness through a range of animal walks, crawls and jumps that are fun and challenging. Through our games

and activities, children develop: Coordination, balance, strength, speed, agility, fitness, self-confidence, assertiveness and determination.

Anatomy

Our bodies are amazing! We teach children to love and respect their bodies, from top to toe and inside out. Our instructors lead simple, interactive discussions on a variety of topics including: Our Body, Our Senses, Our Skeleton, Our Muscles, Our Digestive System, Our Circulation System, Our Respiratory System, Our Nervous System, Our Immune System

The Environment

What a wonderful world we live in! The Fit Elephant program opens kids' eyes about our amazing planet, including fascinating facts about endangered animals and simple ways for each and every one of us to make the world a better place for the future. We lead simple, fun discussions on topics such as: About the Planet, Habitats, Endangered Animals, Ways You Can Help.

Each lesson includes activities and conversations regarding these instrumental topics, preparing children for their upcoming schooling years in a safe, fun environment. By developing these skills and the children's knowledge base, Fit Elephant ensures that children are truly learning and enjoying their time.

** Fit Elephant is delivered by Childhood Australia through their Wild Things Program.*



TONGUE-TIED ELEPHANT

Numerous studies have shown that the window of learning a foreign language is in the first two to five years of age. This is the golden age of learning for children, when their minds absorb knowledge more rapidly and successfully than at any other time during their lives.

In today's increasingly global world, being exposed to a second language can give your child advantages in their school years and beyond. Early language learning has been tied to higher test scores, better and more advanced reading skills, greater confidence and more. A second language builds a bridge to another culture and opens the door to new friendships.

The flow-on effect of learning a language impacts on virtually every area of life:

- improved academic performance across the board
- enhanced brain development
- improved memory
- faster decision making
- improved knowledge of their mother tongue
- better communication skills
- increased confidence and social skills
- enhanced creativity

Our curriculum mimics the way a child learns their mother tongue by starting with core phrases, numbers, colours and the alphabet.

Each lesson includes singing, music, story-telling, games and art to meet the needs of all learning styles. The Australian Governments Early Years Learning Frameworks (EYLF) fully supports the benefits of language and introducing children to the wider community of the world.

** Tongue-Tied Elephant is delivered by Childhood Australia through their AlphaTykes Program.*



CREATIVE ELEPHANT

The Green Elephant understands how important creativity is for a child's healthy mental development and should be encouraged at every opportunity. We have a purpose built performing arts / music room for all the children to explore and express themselves in.

Creativity provides children with the opportunity to express their ideas and their feelings. It offers an outlet for children to cope with issues that concern them. It enables children to develop problem-solving skills that will help them throughout their lifetime. Most importantly, creativity encourages children to discover who they are, to unleash hidden dreams and talents and to embrace their individuality.

The true essence of creativity is much more than making something or writing something or painting something. Creativity involves ideas,

interpretations and decisions that are part of a process that is as important as the end result. Even very young children are able to express their creativity through activities like coloring, playing with blocks, making figures with Play-Doh or guessing what comes next in a book being read to them.

Creativity in children, the ability to express feelings, fears, dreams, ideas, problems and solutions through the creative process, is vital to a child's overall mental, physical and social well-being. A child's creativity becomes evident early on and should be encouraged at every opportunity. Through creative expression children learn new things, experiment with new ideas, learn from their mistakes, experience a variety of options, trials and errors, all which help them mature into well-adjusted adults.



BOOGIE ELEPHANT

Boogie Elephant is a musical education program that harnesses the science of music therapy and the joys of music and movement. Using the science and research that informs music therapy, this program fosters development through creativity, movement, music and interaction.

Music is a wonderful tool to use with children as they are inherently musical and generally respond positively to musical stimuli. As babies grow into toddlers music can be used to reinforce their development and help meet important milestones. This is because music is fun, fosters creativity and joy, and allows children to participate at their own level and pace. By its very nature music enhances learning, and children's songs are particularly effective because they are repetitive, providing lots of 'rehearsal' opportunity, and are predictable, enabling children to anticipate 'what comes next'.

Boogie Elephant is based on music therapy principles and early childhood development theory. The program is designed and run by music therapists to ensure that childhood development is a key outcome of participation.

Children will learn important concepts and skills such as: gross and fine motor skills, increased confidence to move, improved social, speech and language skills, greater creativity and emotional expression and self-confidence.

Boogie Elephant provides an environment where musical material is repeated, opportunities for listening, copying and rehearsing are constantly available and where the children are immersed in musical fun. Through this, music provides opportunities for the children to learn and grow and develop as well as exposing them to musical concepts.

Singing is a key element of the program as it assists young children in acquiring language skills and is a wonderful tool for reinforcing this development. Young children 'learn' music most effectively through singing because of the lack of cognitive scaffolding to 'process' formal music education.

As the children get older, Boogie Elephant begins to introduce more music education concepts through listening, singing and movement games, and also adds elements of pre-academic skills, such as working on pincer grip through instrumental play, rhythms, new words, following complex concepts and instructions. This allows the older child to begin to learn about music, while also reinforcing their preparation for schooling.

This feeds well into the Early Years Learning Framework, which has a vision for all children to experience play-based learning that is engaging and builds success for life.

** Boogie Elephant is delivered by Childhood Australia through their Boppin' Babies Program.*



SAFE ELEPHANT

Safe Elephant teaches safety and self-defence so that kids have the tools to tackle all that life throws at them. It is a fun physical training program that gives real solutions and helps children to be strong and confident, with a love of life and an ability to protect themselves. The program was developed with a focus on developing a safe, holistic and gentle program for children.

We teach practical self-defence solutions for children to protect themselves from bullying, rough play, inappropriate touching and even abduction. We teach kids to identify and be aware of danger, use their voice and run away to safety.

Safe Elephant gives children some simple and practical tools to protect themselves from dangerous or uncomfortable situations so that they have freedom and confidence to enjoy life. The most important skills your children will learn include how to:

- Identify and avoid danger
- Use their voice
- Run away to safety

For any child, no matter how young, these basic skills are their best weapons to stay safe! Learning self-defence helps build confidence, assertiveness, concentration, discipline and respect for self and others. We absolutely DO NOT teach kids to fight or be aggressive. What we do is reinforce all of the same

important rules of life as you do: we play gently, we take care of each other and we never hurt our friends or family.

Importantly, our program is gentle on children's minds and hearts. Children are innocent and we want to keep them that way, so we don't scare children or create anxiety about their world. The self-defence skills we are teaching are embedded in fun and exciting games that the children love and our language and explanations are child-friendly.

We teach a holistic range of topics to help kids stay safe and enjoy life. Our topics have been chosen based on a thorough understanding of the most common causes of injuries in Australia with children in this age group. These include: Road safety, Water safety, Sun safety, Fire safety, Electrical safety, Playground safety, Home safety, Animal safety, Burns, Poisons, First aid, Bullying, Stranger danger, It's your body, Crowds, People who can help.

** Safe Elephant is delivered by Childhood Australia through their Dynamight Kids Program.*



HI-TECH ELEPHANT

Today's children are living 'technologised childhoods'. Digital devices permeate their everyday lives.

It's paramount, as parents and educators, that we teach young children how to form healthy and helpful technology habits, as they'll inherit a digital world. The Hi-Tech Elephant program empowers young children to be confident and healthy technology users.

There's a growing corpus of research that confirms that the intentional and developmentally-appropriate use of technology can actually support (not stifle) young children's learning and development.

The Hi-Tech Elephant program purposefully and appropriately integrates technology into children's learning experiences. Technological tools compliment and support the hands-on,

play-based, social experiences that children experience at The Green Elephant. Technology is NOT used to substitute or supersede these vital experiences.

Educators at The Green Elephant are armed with the latest research about the educational potential of digital technologies through tailored and on-going professional learning with Dr Goodwin. Educators are empowered to select the best technologies to optimise children's learning and development (and also mitigate any potential harmful effects). Educators select from a range of digital devices, including iPads, computers and digital cameras to support young children's learning. Digital devices are also utilised by educators to capture and share your child's individualised learning journey with you.



HEALTHY ELEPHANT

The Green Elephant children are never too young to begin learning about good nutrition. Good nutrition makes us strong and healthy. Every lesson includes a simple and fun discussion about eating well and giving our bodies good fuel. We discuss: Good Nutrition, Fruit and Vegetables, Breads and Cereals, Meats and Fish, Dairy, Drinks, Snacks, Oils and Fats

Good nutrition is essential for:

- growth and physical development
- healthy brain functioning
- prevention of illness
- repair of cells / recovery from illness
- good concentration
- maintaining energy
- overall wellbeing

Children will participate in

- seed sprouting
- weeding
- herb gardens
- vegetable gardens
- eating what we grow from our gardens.
- cooking classes (for the older kids)

We believe in promoting healthy eating habits and good nutrition to contribute to children's longer term health and wellbeing.





BIG SCHOOL ELEPHANT

The goal of our school readiness program is for your child to successfully start school with confidence, develop the foundations for lifelong learning and familiarise children with the school environment and associated routines, tasks, rules and expectations within that environment.

We have tailored a curriculum that focuses on developing your child's skills in several key areas:

Social and Emotional Development

Full of activities designed to increase children's independence, further developing their confidence and abilities.

Language Arts and Literacy

Contains activities that will promote early literacy skills, including alphabet letter recognition, phonics, and comprehension.

Numeracy and Science

In numeracy your child will practice math skills, such as identifying shapes and numbers, counting, explore the concepts of time, money, and weight. In Science, the educators will provide opportunities for the children to explore nature,

water, plants, animals, sounds, textures and other essential science topics.

Creative Arts, Music and Language

Creativity provides children with the opportunity to express their ideas and their feelings. It offers an outlet for children to cope with issues that concern them. It enables children to develop problem-solving skills that will help them throughout their lifetime.

Social Studies

Helps explain the world in which we live. Much like science teaches children to observe the physical aspects of life, social studies encourages children to open their minds to the many places humans live on this planet.

Gross and Fine Motor Development

Gross motor skills include throwing and catching a ball, hopping, demonstrating balance, jumping rope, and other exercise activities. Fine motor skills, which strengthen the smaller muscle groups, include easel painting, making masks, drawing with pastels and cutting with scissors.

FAQ's

What are your operating hours?

Our operating hours are from 7.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday, 50 weeks a year. We are not open on weekends or public holidays.

What ages does The Green Elephant cater for?

The Green Elephant nurtures children 0-6yrs of age. Our environment is set up to foster all aspects of the child's developmental stages.

How do I enrol at The Green Elephant?

Fill out our Enrolment Enquiry Form online. On receipt of your completed form you will be contacted by a member of our team. We will advise you if your chosen days are available and will send you an enrolment package.

How much are your daily fees?

For daily fees please email the centre on info@thegreenelephant.com.au

Is there an initial payment required to confirm enrolment?

Once enrolment is accepted, a bond of two weeks fees is to be paid to secure your child's position. The bond will be used for the last two weeks of attendance at the centre.

What is the minimum number of days my child can attend?

In order for your child to adjust to their new surroundings, we recommend a minimum of two days booking for each child. This allows your little

one to receive the maximum benefit of a childcare setting.

Do children receive meals?

At The Green Elephant we provide all meals throughout the day which are tailored by our nutritionists and cooked by our friendly chef.

Are nappies and formula provided for babies and toddlers?

Yes, we provide nappies and formula.

What activities are provided for my child?

We are an all inclusive centre which means your child will participate in our 8 key Elephant Programs.

Are the staff qualified?

To ensure the highest standards of care, we pay the utmost attention to employing qualified and experienced staff who share our philosophy and ideas of working together to create a warm, loving and secure environment for children to learn and grow.

What government rebates and benefits are available to families?

There are two main subsidies offered by the Australian Government for which you may be eligible. These are the Child Care Rebate (CCR) and the Child Care Benefit (CCB). Call the Family Assistance Office (13 61 50) to find out if you are eligible for either of these subsidies and to what amount.





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