

Hakea

Hakea Waldorf Foundations 4–6-Year-olds

Hakea Waldorf Foundations offers a nurturing, play-based, screen-free environment. It has consistent daily rhythms focused on holistic growth of the young child for an unhurried and gentle introduction to the early years. Attention is given to creating a nurturing and supportive setting where children feel safe and valued. Our educators hold the space for children to explore and express themselves through play, arts, crafts, music, and storytelling.

Hakea Waldorf Foundations is interested in the growth of the whole child. Our program sets children up for a smooth transition to school. To support the integrity of our program and the development of your child's growth, Hakea is now running as a 2-day program. Where practicable, children will attend on both Monday and Tuesday.



Day 1 eases your child back into the rhythm and a day outside of their home.

Day 2 is when your child can feel settled into their day with comfort and regularity. By having the first day, the second day becomes enhanced as they arrive into the familiar space with depth, easing their nervous system and allowing their creativity and problem-solving skills to come to the fore.

Our program offers:

- **Rhythm & Routine:** A predictable daily flow with gentle transitions between activities, often signalled by songs or verses, providing security.
- **Play-Based Learning:** Learning happens organically through imaginative, child-led free play and structured activities like painting, drawing, puppetry, and handcrafts (weaving, finger knitting).
- **Nature Immersion:** Daily outdoor time in all weather is crucial for gross motor skills, coordination, and cognitive development, exploring natural materials and seasonal changes. Observing, listening, smelling, touching, connecting with nature.
- **Creative Arts:** Activities like watercolour painting, beeswax modelling, storytelling, puppetry, and singing develop creativity and fine motor skills.

- **Holistic Development:** Focuses on emotional, social, physical, and cognitive growth, fostering independence, resilience, and a love for learning.
- **Screen-Free:** A deliberate absence of screens to encourage imaginative play and direct sensory experience.



Typical Activities In a day at Hakea Include:

- **Morning Circle:** Singing, verses, finger plays, movement.
- **Free Play:** Indoors (blocks, dolls) and outdoors (sand, mud, water, climbing).
- **Creative Work:** Painting, beeswax modelling, baking, simple weaving.
- **Meaningful Work/ Practical Life:** Food preparation, cooking, tidying, peeling vegetables, stirring soup, polishing wood, sweeping, folding cloths, feeding chickens, planting seeds, watering garden, composting food scraps.
- **Arts & Crafts:** Finger knitting, simple sewing, painting, beeswax modelling, crayon drawing.
- **Nature-Based:** Gardening, caring for plants, observing nature, connecting with nature, feeding animals, hunting for bugs.
- **Storytelling:** Imaginative tales to inspire wonder.
- **Movement:** Indoor and outdoor movement activities/opportunities, balance, climb.
- **Rest Time:** Quiet reflection or rest



Key Principles of our Waldorf Hakea Program:

- **Imitative Play:** Children mimic the teacher's genuine work (sweeping, cooking) to learn skills and feel capable.
- **Practical Life:** Daily tasks like kneading dough, gardening, and setting tables provide real-world experience and foster responsibility.
- **Nature & Outdoors:** Daily outdoor time, nature walks, and gardening connect children to the natural world.
- **Art & Creativity:** Watercolour painting (wet-on-wet), beeswax modelling, simple handcrafts (knitting, sewing), and music nourish the soul.
- **Rhythm & Routine:** Predictable daily, weekly, and seasonal rhythms (festivals, storytelling) provide security and structure.
- **Storytelling & Puppetry:** Oral stories, nursery rhymes, and puppet shows build language, imagination, and emotional depth.
- **Open-Ended Toys:** Simple materials (wood, silk, wool) encourage imaginative, child-led play, unlike screen-based toys.



What our Program Develops:

- **Will & Physical Skills:** Practical work builds stamina, coordination, and determination.
- **Imagination & Creativity:** Fosters a rich inner world, a foundation for later literacy and abstract thinking.
- **Competence & Belonging:** Children learn they can contribute and are part of a community.
- **Connection to Life:** Develops respect for nature, origins of materials, and the cycles of the seasons.
- **Pre academics:** Through creative play, story time, artistic activities and outdoor exploration, the children work on language development, basic math, working with peers, listening skills, lengthening attention span and developing memory.



During creative play time, as children play and imagine with a wide variety of natural toys and materials, they are developing their imagination, interacting with peers, problem-solving, and carrying tasks to completion.

As they sit quietly in a circle for story time, morning verse or a puppet show, they are learning to recite and remember, listen for sustained periods of time, expand their vocabulary and understand the sounds and meanings of language.

Storytime in a Kindergarten classroom is especially important in the Waldorf approach to teaching reading, which develops a child's comprehension skills before phonic skills.

Listening, comprehending and imagining what is said in spoken word is key to future reading comprehension when words on a page must go beyond the stale script and develop into a richness in their minds.

How our Program Differs:

- **Play-Based:** Learning happens *through* play and meaningful work, not formal instruction.
- **Delayed Academics:** Focus remains on holistic development (head, heart, hands) before formal reading/math in Grade 1.
- **Teacher as Model:** The teacher's joyful, authentic engagement is central to the learning process.

Why What We Do and How We Do It Matters:

This approach builds an inner foundation for later learning by nurturing the child's will and imagination, making children feel competent and part of a caring community, rather than just learning abstract concepts.

Our programs are run by Waldorf trained and passionate people who take pride and care for their work they do. Why does it feel so different, so special, in a Waldorf Kindergarten? There is a peaceful quiet under the hum of activity and focus, the teachers speak and sing softly and the children move about the room with a comfortable confidence at any given moment.

There are many things that contribute to this unique setting, including the natural classroom design, the smell of fresh bread or soup, or the way the teachers move about the room doing purposeful work.

There is also a deeper level of social, emotional and academic learning in the Waldorf Kindergarten that is a pervasive undercurrent in the daily rhythm of our early childhood classrooms.

Hakea Educators and
FWEA Board

