

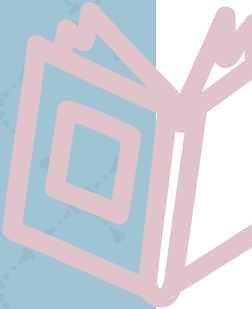


**FREE
GUIDE**



KINDY COTTAGE

Choosing Childcare with Confidence



Tips to choose the service
that fits your family.





SO, YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE IDEAL CHILDCARE SERVICE FOR YOUR CHILD...

There's a special place where children are cherished.

Where childhood is honoured.

Where your child is immersed in a spirit of fun,
adventure, discovery and belonging to equip them
for their unique future.

A place that's just right for your child, their
personality and their learning style,
and your needs as a parent.





LET'S HELP YOU FIND IT.





WELCOME TO KINDY COTTAGE

We've been listening to parents for many years as they seek to navigate the path between home, childcare and their work and life commitments.

As childcare specialists, we've observed there are a few key themes about this experience that keep coming up.

We've put these together for you, along with a few tips on how to identify what might work for you.

The Kindy Cottage Team





EVERYONE ADVISES YOU TO ASK
LOTS OF QUESTIONS.
ANY QUESTIONS.

BUT WHAT ARE THE QUESTIONS THAT
MATTER? WHAT WILL DELIVER WHAT
YOU NEED TO KNOW?





TIP NO 1.

HOW DO YOU WANT TO FEEL?

You've created a loving, safe, stable home environment, and now it's time for a transition to another environment that aligns with your world.

“ I love the calm, welcoming feeling that hits you as soon as you walk in the door. It's reassuring. Even I want to stay. ”

“ It's such a relief to find a centre so deserving of my trust. For me, it means I walk away with peace of mind. ”

“ My child talks about his teachers and playmates as “my friends...” and asks when he can go back there and play. ”





TIP No 2. FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS

No one knows your child better than you.

Ask as many questions as you want to get the answers you need.





TIP NO 3.

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS ARE EVERYTHING

Find time for a visit.
Compare services.

Spend some time with services before you make
a decision, so you can observe
staff/child interactions first-hand.

Take up the invite to return as often as you
wish - especially before starting.





TIP NO 4.

WHEN WE THINK OF INFLUENCES ON OUR CHILDREN, WE AS PARENTS AND EDUCATORS ARE MAJOR PLAYERS. ALL OF US ARE ROLE MODELS AND MUST BE WORTHY OF IMITATION.

- THE KINDY COTTAGE TEAM

- **Do the staff seem to know each child?**
- **Are the educators and teachers worthy of imitation? Respectful, warm and patient?**
- **Do educators and teachers display the values you are looking to instil in your children?**
 - **How does the service retain the best educators?**





TIP NO 5. WHAT WILL BE YOUR EXPERIENCE WHEN YOU CALL?

Some centres use a call centre.
At Kindy Cottage you will speak directly with
the educators who are right there.





HERE'S OUR FAVOURITE GOAL:
YOUR CHILD WILL SPEND THEIR DAYS
SURROUNDED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE TEACHERS
ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO LEARN
SOMETHING NEW, TRY A LITTLE HARDER,
AND TO THINK JUST A LITTLE DEEPER.

THE KINDY COTTAGE TEAM





TIP NO 6.

HAPPY CHILDREN LEARN

Observing the children during your visit:

- **Do the children have a consistent routine that they can understand and follow?**
- **Are children engaged and content in the activities offered?**
- **Are the meal times happy occasions?**
- **Babies: how are they helped to rest?**





TIP No 7. KNOW WHAT QUESTIONS TO ASK

We've created **The Childcare Checklist** to
help you get started.

Here it is.



THE CHILDCARE CHECKLIST

QUESTIONS	MY NOTES	SERVICE NAME
What are you looking for? What's your criteria? How do you want to feel when you say goodbye?		
What words do you associate with your dream childcare provider experience?		
What questions do you need to ask, to get the information you want? Hint: The advice is "follow your instincts"		
Staff to Child Ratio. Any facts you'd like to know? What does it mean for your child?		
Visiting a Service: Observations and questions about staff interaction. - While you are visiting the centre, notice whether the children seem to know everyone in their community. - Do the staff seem to know each child? - Are the educators and teachers worthy of imitation? Respectful, warm and patient? - Do educators and teachers display the values you are looking to instil in your children? - Who are they and what is their story? - Their qualifications? How accessible is this information? - How does the service retain the best educators?		
Visiting a Service: Observing children - Do the children have a consistent routine that they can understand and follow? - Are children engaged and content in the activities offered? - Are the meal times happy occasions? - Babies: how are they helped to rest?		
Day to Day Contact. What happens when you call the childcare service? - A call centre manages day to day calls - The phone is answered directly at the centre - Other		
How many children does the service accommodate?		
Your comments		



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Regulation, Quality Assurance and Compliance

The state government approves and regulates services under national and state legislation.

Staff ratios and qualifications are stipulated by these regulations and regularly checked by the governing department.

Government Subsidy

A Child Care Subsidy is available to approved services. Services apply the amount to the family account to reduce costs. For more information go to www.servicesaustralia.gov.au

National Quality Standards

Every approved service is rated against the National Quality Standard that aims to promote safety, health and wellbeing of children. For more information go to www.acecqa.gov.au

Working with Children Checks

Check with your state government for relevant regulation.

Checks apply to internal staff assessment processes; reference checks on all staff employed; all full, part-time and casual employees; and ongoing visitors who will be working with the children. For more information go to www.childsafety.gov.au





KINDY COTTAGE. OUR STORY

Based on years of caring for and educating young children (and working together) our team of fun-loving educators and teaching friends co-created Kindy Cottage.

WE GET EXCITED ABOUT GROWING GREAT CHILDREN

It's personal.

Here at Kindy Cottage we truly create a kind and caring community where children feel safe to be themselves.

We hope these tips help inform your journey to find the ideal, magical childcare experience for you and your family.

