



Our Early Years experiences help to meet learning outcomes of the VEYLD and EYLF, particularly Outcomes 2 and 3 – children are connected with and contribute to their world, and children have a strong sense of wellbeing.

Teachers and educators can also reflect on Edendale’s environmental education experiences as they work towards Element 3.2.3 of the National Quality Standard (NQS) – ‘The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.’

‘Our 3YO children and parents all had a great time. I loved the way the minibeasts activity covered a range of aspects including worms, bees and a sensory component to maintain the children’s attention and interest. The experienced was planned and executed very well. Fantastic job!’

3 YO teacher

‘The Edendale teachers were a great advertisement for Edendale Education – they were so generous with information, flexible and worked so hard to give our children the “best day ever” (quote from one of the children).’

Highlights were the baby goats, feeding the chickens, making calico bags and learning some really interesting facts about worms. Exceeded my expectations.’

4 YO teachers

Education for Sustainability

2022 programs for Early Years

The Early Years program at Edendale encourages and inspires your young learners to build connections to the natural world. We use the farm as our outdoor classroom, providing rich provocations for the children through fun, hands-on and play-based activities.

Contact and bookings

edendale.education@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
9433 3706

edendale.vic.gov.au



30 Gastons Road Eltham
(Melways Ref 22 A1)

 **Edendale Community Environment Farm**

 **Bus or parent drop off:**
Eltham North Reserve Adventure Playground
(enter from Wattletree Road,
Melway Ref 21 K1)

cafe eden Cafe Eden at Edendale is open
@edendale 9.30am-3pm Mon to Fri
9.30am-3.30pm Weekends

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edendale 


Nillumbik
The Green Wedge Shire



Farm Tour

A guided walk around Edendale with a focus on what farms produce for humans. Children will be able to feed or pat the chickens, guinea pigs, sheep and goats, explore the veggie gardens and orchard, and meet our wonderful worms. As part of the tour, the children will also meet our alpacas and blue-tongue lizards.



Buzzing Around

Through dance, art, observation and play, children discover how our friends the honey bees live their busy lives. They play with props to understand how bees collect nectar, make wax and honey and look after their babies. Everyone will learn the bees' famous waggle dance and find out how well the bees work together.



Environmental Art

Edendale's educators lead the children in activities that use recycled and repurposed materials and objects from the natural world, including:

- Calico Bag Prints – create a colourful print to take home, using fresh flowers and foliage on a calico drawstring bag
- Sculptural Junk – use recycled objects to make arty forms and figures (this activity can be related to a specific topic such as minibeasts).



Minibeasts

(Invertebrates)

A Bug's Life

Children will learn about the very important jobs that minibeasts have in looking after the environment. Depending on the time of the year, they may meet and learn about stick insects and their interesting lifecycle, observe and identify waterbugs using magnifiers and identification charts, discover how bees help us grow food or learn about wonderful worms and their important role in the world.

Eltham Copper Butterfly

Children learn about this very special endangered species, its lifecycle and habitat through drama and a parade of caterpillars, ants and butterflies.



Veggie Gardening

Depending on the time of year, the children may explore the veggie garden matching harvested produce to the plants growing, learn about the different parts of plants we can eat and how different plants grow in different weather. They will learn about what a plant needs to grow and will plant a veggie seed in a little biodegradable pot to take away and watch it grow. Activities are designed to engage children in learning where their food comes from.



Waste Not

This activity introduces children to the concepts of Rethink, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. They become waste champions, helping a family who is having trouble separating their waste into the correct bins. This is a fun and hands-on sorting activity with clean rubbish props, followed by a relay race where children sort items into recyclables, compost, soft plastic, landfill etc.



Wonderful Worms

Explore the amazing life of the compost worm. Activities include visiting Edendale's various worm farms, up-close observation of worms, learning about their needs and life cycle and the importance of worms in reducing waste to landfill.

About our Early Years programs

- Each activity runs for approximately 50 minutes
- Our activities are fun, hands-on and experiential, and can be adapted specifically to your needs
- Programs will need to be flexible to take into account any COVID-related restrictions at the time
- Many groups combine their Edendale excursion with a picnic/play at the wonderful Eltham North Adventure Playground, a short walk from our northern gate.

Incursions

If you are unable to visit us, and you are reasonably local to Eltham, we can deliver some of these activities as incursions at your centre. We can also help you with setting up veggie gardens, worm farms, compost bins or greening your preschool with indigenous plantings.

2022 Excursion Pricing

Length of visit	Number of activities	Price
1 hour	one activity	\$9.30
2 hours	two activities	\$16.00
3 hours	three activities	\$18.50

* Quoted prices are per child, GST-inclusive and based on a minimum of 15 children per group
* Contact us for incursion prices