



Welcome to Rainbow Garden Playgroup!

Parent Information Sheet



At Steiner Playgroup we value imaginative, free play. The play equipment that we use is made from natural materials and the toys are very simple.

We have a rhythm in our Playgroup that we follow each week. The children become familiar with this rhythm, providing a comforting, calm and settled experience.

Together we sing seasonal songs and listen to a relevant story or fairytale. Transitions between activities are signaled by songs, so listen for the song to tell you when it's time for the next activity! The children quickly pick up on this - naturally enjoying the songs and routine.

The following is an outline of how the Playgroup session unfolds, as well as other information which may be helpful in answering some of your questions.

Enrolment

If you are unsure about enrolling immediately, you are welcome to try your first session for free! This gives you an opportunity to experience our Playgroup and decide if you would like to join us. If so, you will be required to enroll and pay a fee for each Term.

You may also like to be a member of the Playgroup Tasmania Association, which requires enrolment and the payment of a small annual fee to their organisation.

You will need to fill out and submit a copy of our Registration Form, which includes details for direct deposit into the Rainbow Garden Steiner Playgroup's bank account. This form can be handed in to Bec at the Playgroup session or alternatively emailed through to playgroup@tamarvalleysteiner.tas.edu.au

Staff

Our Playgroup Coordinator is Ms. Rebecca Phillips.

BA; Grad. Dip. Ed; Associate Dip. Art, Craft, Design; Cert. 4 Nutrition; Cert. 4 Disability

Rebecca has been working as a teacher for 20 years, including teaching English as a Second Language.

She also worked as the Kindergarten teacher at the former Launceston Steiner School.

Jill is a learning assistant at Tamar Valley Steiner School, and we are delighted that she is joining as one of our playgroup coordinators.

Rebecca will be holding our Wednesday and Friday morning sessions.

Jill will be holding our Friday afternoon session.

Upon Arrival

- ✚ We ask that everyone remove their shoes and belongings in the foyer. A pair of slippers for your child (and yourself) to wear during Playgroup may be cosy and comforting.
- ✚ It is helpful if you dress your child appropriately for the weather conditions, as outside play is an important part of our program.
In Winter please bring gumboots, a coat, a warm hat and gloves.
In Summer a broad-brimmed sunhat is essential. It is also a good idea to bring a change of clothes for your child.
- ✚ It is preferable if mobile phones are switched to silent mode. Out of respect for the children's harmonious space, we ask that you take any calls or messages out in the foyer.
- ✚ If you should arrive after the start time, please quietly enter and join the group in the circle.
- ✚ The Attendance Sheet is upon the desk as you enter the Playgroup room. Please sign this form each week so that we have a record of who is present.
- ✚ Please make your way to the morning circle amongst the rainbow cushions, where we come together to begin the session.
- ✚ Our Playgroup session is accompanied by many songs, which aid in the harmony and flow of the day (The children do not mind, or notice if you cannot sing in tune!)
- ✚ After our story, a bowl is passed around which contains notes of 'jobs'. These jobs are undertaken by parents during the course of the session and include: making tea, sweeping, cutting up fruit, watering plants, uncovering sandpit, weeding, packing up dolls and outside toys and 'smiling'!

Our Program

Ideally arrive 10-15 minutes early

- ✚ We begin by singing our 'Good Morning' song
- ✚ We then sing 'This is My Trunk'
- ✚ Followed by 'Mother of the Fairy Tale'

We sit on the mat to hear our story for the day

- ✚ One of the children then offers the 'jobs' bowl to parents
- ✚ A child is asked to snuff out the candle while we sing to the 'Fire Fairies'
- ✚ Rebecca will make any necessary announcements, and explain our craft activity for the session.

Children have the option of engaging in the craft activity and/or free play

We will pack up whilst singing our pack up song 'Hither Shall I Follow'

We will have 10 minute circle time, engaging in songs, movement and games

Everyone will wash and dry their hands, followed by:

- ✚ The 'Tablecloth' song
- ✚ The 'Fire Fairy' song
- ✚ The 'Blessing' song

Eating of your morning/afternoon tea of fruit or soup, then bread with water to drink

Clean up, then outside for play

Join hands for our 'Goodbye Song and depart

Bread

Parents take turns at making dough, which is brought to Playgroup, then formed into small rolls and baked in the oven.

The recipe is very easy to follow and is attached at the end of this sheet.

The 'Bread Roster' form is on the desk near the entrance. It would be wonderful to have your contribution to this ritual, so please feel free to add your name to the roster on a date that suits your schedule.



Once the children are playing, the person who has drawn the job of 'Making Tea' will make a hot drink for those parents who would like one.

Our kitchen is equipped with all the necessary items, including a stove top and small oven. There is no roster for kitchen duties. Rather, whoever is available joins in to help prepare food, wash dishes, wipe tables or sweep up.

There is a gate which may be latched to prevent small children from entering the kitchen. Parents are happy to care for your child if you would like to be in the kitchen*

**Please feel relaxed about participating in the parent tasks.*

Although the various jobs are helpful and demonstrate good role-modelling to the children, if your child needs your attention and time, then that is an obvious priority.

Newsletter

A newsletter is emailed at the beginning of each term. Please enjoy reading through this - it is full of information about upcoming events, ideas, reminders, and news.

Useful Links

[Tamar Valley Steiner School | Launceston TAS - Facebook](#)

<http://www.steinereducation.edu.au>

<http://www.tamarvalleysteiner.tas.edu.au>

<http://steinerproducts.com.au>

Getting There

Best way to access French St by car:

off George St or High St onto Frankland St (upper) and then onto Lord St that becomes French St.

it is best to avoid coming off Howick St onto Lord, as it is very steep one-way St.

The French St campus (41 French St) is located at the end of French St to the left, where there is a small concrete paved carpark.

We hope you have an enjoyable and enriching time with us at the Rainbow Garden Playgroup.

Thank you so much for your support!

The Easiest Bread Recipe

Ingredients

- ✚ 4 cups whole meal flour
- ✚ 4 cups plain flour
- ✚ 4 tsp salt
- ✚ 4 tsp sugar
- ✚ 4 tsp dried yeast
- ✚ 4 cups warm water
- ✚ Glug or two of olive oil

Method

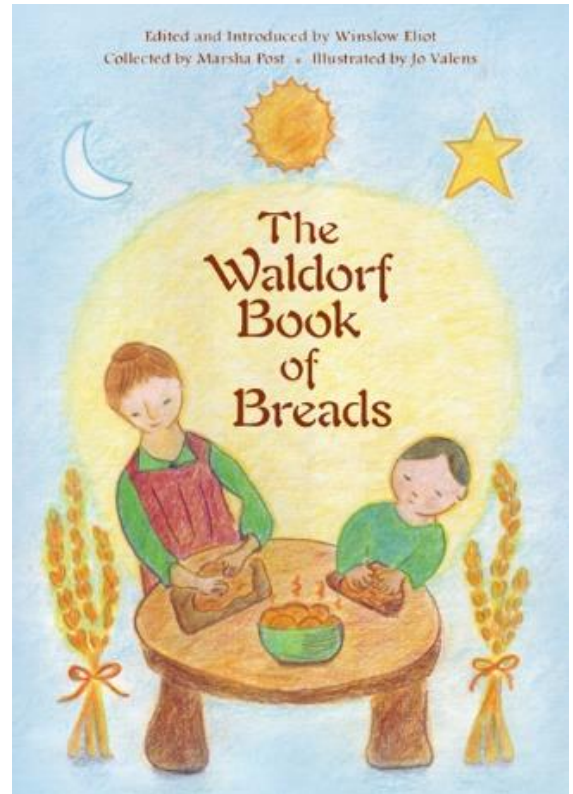
The night before

- ✚ Mix all ingredients together with hands to form a dough
- ✚ Add more flour if too runny or sticky
- ✚ Knead for a few minutes
- ✚ Put into a bowl with cling wrap over the top and leave in a warm place to double in size.
- ✚ Knead again, then put back into the bowl
- ✚ Cover with cling wrap and put it in the fridge

In the morning

- ✚ Knead quickly to form a ball and return to bowl

Please bring to Playgroup like this, ready to form into rolls during the Playgroup session





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