



SOPHIA  
MUNDI

Steiner Education and IB World School



# Nature Playgroup

Sophia Mundi Steiner School  
An inspirational education

*Something worthwhile to  
imitate, touch, explore.*

## Application and enrolment:

- It is important that families attend a School Tour prior to enrolling in playgroup. Tour dates and information is available on the School website.
- **All Playgroup enquiries (including application forms) may be directed to: [playgroup@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au](mailto:playgroup@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au)**
- Application forms are also available from the School website and from School Reception.
- Complete an Playgroup application form and return it, along with the application fee.
- An non-refundable application fee of \$35 must accompany a Playgroup application.
- You will be notified when a place becomes available. At this time you will also receive an invoice for the Term's fee. **To confirm and accept your offered place, the Term fee of \$270 must be paid before the start date.** Once the Term has commenced, fees are non-refundable (unless due to medical reasons).
- Nature Playgroups are held Thursday and Friday mornings for two hours. Families gather at 9:15am for snacks, toilet etc before the session starts at 9:30am. The session finishes at 11:30am.
- Playgroups are held at Sophia Mundi Steiner School and in the grounds of the Abbotsford Convent - 1 St Heliers St, Abbotsford.
- Parents and carers attending Playgroup with thier children are required to have a valid Working With Children Check (WWCC).

## Our programs are based on the educational philosophy of Rudolf Steiner.

- Honouring each phase of early childhood.
- Allowing development to take its natural course.
- Seeing imitation rather than direct instruction as the effective way to learn during early childhood.
- Seeing play as the child's natural and appropriate form of expression.
- Giving attention to healthy physical development as the main focus in the early years.
- Fostering healthy development of the senses: particularly senses of touch, movement, balance and of own well-being.



SOPHIA MUNDI Limited

A.B.N. 44 006 411 016

St Mary's Building  
1 St Heliers Street Abbotsford 3067

For all enquiries and enrolment  
information contact

**Sophia Mundi Steiner School**

**T: 03 9419 9229**

**E: [playgroup@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au](mailto:playgroup@sophiamundi.vic.edu.au)**

**[www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au](http://www.sophiamundi.vic.edu.au)**

# Nature Playgroup at Sophia Mundi

Our Nature Playgroup is an all outdoor play based program for three, four and five year olds accompanied by their parent or carer.

The program aims to foster a curiosity, wonder and respect for nature for young children and parents alike through play and enjoyable activities.

It aims to give the children an experience of being out in the elements whether it's a sunny, rainy or a breezy morning!

The program is held at Sophia Mundi Steiner School and run by a an early childhood teacher with experience in Steiner and outdoor education.

The program is based in the School's vegetable and kitchen garden, with walks out to nearby green spaces.



If a child in their play has been able to give up their whole living-being to the world around, they will be able, in the serious tasks of later life, to devote herself to the service of the world.

– Rudolf Steiner

# What we do at Nature Playgroup

The morning has a nurturing rhythm that holds the group throughout the year. We gather together with a verse and then move to the kitchen garden for some simple gardening activities; planting seeds, harvesting, smelling herbs etc.

The group then leaves to go on a walk to nearby green spaces for seasonal observations and time for a play.

Each term is interspersed with nature activities such as cubby making. We finish by returning to the school for a snack and a bush story.

Protective clothing is vital to ensure the children are kept comfortable and dry throughout the year while attending this program. Sturdy shoes are needed along with sun smart clothing in term 1 and 2 with warm clothing and wet weather gear in term 2 and 3.

Please note that parents must accompany their child as it is not a rostered Playgroup. Parents and carers are asked to encourage their child to follow directions from the playgroup leader.

We also ask that parents and carers follow the directions of the playgroup teacher and assist in monitoring the boundary when the children play in public spaces.

**Please note that cameras and mobile phones are not to be used during the morning (except for phones in emergencies).**

Please bring along healthy snacks (nut free) and water for your child.