

### **Core Purpose**

The core purpose of Meadows & Districts Kindergarten is to provide quality education in partnership with families for all of our children in a safe, equitable, respectful, and supportive learning environment. Our learning is co-constructed through a play-based curriculum that is challenging, rewarding, relevant, inspiring, and fun.

Our curriculum is based on the National 'Early Years Learning Framework – Belonging, Being and Becoming'. Our assessment and reporting is based on the Learning Outcomes within this Framework.

### **Our Philosophy**

We recognise and celebrate the diversity that contributes to the richness and uniqueness of our community.

We believe quality education is educators working in partnership with and valuing the perspectives of children, families, and the community.

A safe, respectful, engaging, and natural learning environment develops children's confidence to become resilient and curious life-long learners.

Providing opportunities to learn from and on Country fosters a greater understanding of First Nations ways of knowing and being while working towards a sustainable future.

Children grow and learn through a play-based curriculum that is challenging, intentional, rewarding, relevant, inspiring, and fun.

# Family Information Brochure



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Email: [dl.4678.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.4678.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

## **Educators (2024)**

Director	Brigitte French
Teachers	Robyn Jones, Ellen Quirk, Janet Prince
Occasional Care	Rebecca Perkins, Rani Turner
Early Childhood Workers	Rebecca Perkins, Angela Jones

## **Kindergarten Session Times 2025**

Monday/Tuesday	8.20 am—3.10 pm
Wednesday/Thursday	8.20 am—3.10 pm

## **Kindergarten Services**

Kindergarten is funded by the Department for Education with additional funds raised from parent fees, fundraising and grants.

### **The Kindergarten provides the following services:**

Sessional Preschool – 15 hours a week for 4-year-olds for the year prior to school entry.

Early Entry/Extended Kindergarten – There is provision for a child to attend for an extra term in exceptional circumstances e.g. developmental delay, or children in care. Please speak with the Director for more information.

Occasional Care is available for 2 and 3-year-olds on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and odd week Fridays from 8.30 am to 11.30 am.

Please contact our Occasional Care coordinator Rebecca Perkins at the kindergarten on 08 8388 3005 for more information.

***All services depend on vacancies and priority of access. Sessional Preschool has priority over all services.***

UPDATED November 2024

## **Bushfire Information**

We want to ensure families are well prepared for a bushfire emergency. A bushfire 'risk rating' is applied to all schools and preschools in designated bushfire-prone areas. Our site is an R3 (medium to low risk) rated site. **Our site will CLOSE on Catastrophic fire danger days.**

You can help us prepare for the fire danger season by:

- reading and familiarising yourself with all bushfire information provided to you including our site emergency management plan
- talking to your child about what will happen if a bushfire occurs when they are in kindergarten
- making a personal bushfire survival plan for your family and letting us know if this will affect your child's attendance (Visit the CFS website for more information on how to develop your own plan)
- making sure your emergency contact details are updated and provided to us before the start of the fire danger season

If a bushfire is approaching, the safety of children and other occupants at our kindergarten is the highest priority. In these situations, we will:

- move to our designated bushfire shelter (inside the main kindergarten building)
- engage our Emergency Bushfire Procedure
- remain inside until the main firefront has passed
- listen to local radio, monitor the CFS website, and work with the Security and Emergency Management unit to manage the situation and stay informed about changing conditions

## Ways you can support the kindergarten

We pride ourselves in providing an environment where families feel welcome. If you have any particular skills or interests, or just a keenness to be involved, please let us know! Some of the ways you can be involved in the kindergarten are:

### Curriculum support

Come along and read with the children, stay and play, share your skills and interests, volunteer to lead a learning experience (art, craft, music, woodwork, cooking, sport/exercise, science), or share something about your job. Please talk with educators about ways you would like to be involved in the curriculum.

### Governing Council

All families are welcome to become members of the Governing Council. The Governing Council meets twice a term and assists with managing the kindergarten. This involves helping to develop, oversee, and review long-term plans that guide the direction of the kindergarten, establishing and overseeing the budget, keeping facilities in good repair, and fundraising for items not covered in regular site funding.



Please scan to register your interest in nominating for the Governing Council in 2025.

## Additional Services

**Student Support Services (SSS)** works with preschools and schools where there are children and young people who have particular educational support needs. This can include:

- developmental delay/disability
- learning difficulties
- behavioural issues (social/emotional)
- health or wellbeing issues
- disengagement/non-attendance issues
- communication difficulties.

We can discuss your child's needs with the department's SSS team. SSS will provide advice, recommendations and involve their team members if necessary.

**Child and Family Health Services** offers a health check for 4 to 5-year-old children. These are available at the kindergarten at specified times during the year, or can be booked at the local CAHFS office by phoning 1300 733 606

All children are eligible to join the free **School Dental Service** at Mt Barker. For information about appointments and fees, contact the School Dental Clinic at: 08 8391 0858.

### Fees

Sessional Preschool	\$800 for the year
Occasional Care	\$5 per session, \$2.50 for 2nd child \$1.50 for concession

Preschool fees are paid in three instalments and include all incursions and excursions that are a required part of our kindergarten program. You will also receive a logoed broad brimmed hat and t-shirt. Occasional Care fees are paid by the term. Please refer to the Kindergarten's Fees Collection Policy for more details.

## **Kindergarten Procedures**

### **Arrival (between 8:20–9:00 am)**

Kindergarten sessions begin at 8.20 am and we ask that you do not arrive before this time. This enables educators to complete important tasks such as preparing for the day and having confidential conversations. On arrival, your child will be welcomed by educators and supported to place their bag in their named locker. Please sign your child in on the attendance sheet. If someone different will be collecting your child from kindergarten, please let us know before pick-up time.

### **Collection (between 2:50–3:10 pm)**

It is essential to arrive by 3.10 pm to collect your child (as educators have important tasks that need to be completed when children are not present i.e., team reflection time to review the day, assessment, and reporting, and preparing experiences). Please wait for an educator to dismiss your child before leaving with them and sign them out on the attendance sheet.

### **Food and Drink**

In line with our Healthy Food and Nutrition Policy, our kindergarten promotes safe healthy eating habits. Please send a nutritious packed lunch, including fruits or vegetables for a morning snack, and a water bottle. Children are encouraged to drink water regularly, and educators will refill water bottles as required.

*Please note that our kindergarten is an 'Allergy Aware' site which means we may request that some foods be restricted depending on the medical needs of the children enrolled. We will inform families of any foods that are restricted.*

### **In case of absence/ illness**

It is beneficial for your child to attend kindergarten regularly. If your child will be absent, please notify educators as soon as possible. Please let educators know the reason for absence as it is important that we are aware of illnesses. If your child is unwell, please keep them home to minimise the spread of infection.

### **Dress**

Dress your child in comfortable Sun Safe clothing; pants, tops with sleeves, a hat (no caps) and rubber-soled shoes are preferable. Please send a named change of clothes in your child's bag in case they get wet or dirty. Children will be provided with a SunSmart polo shirt and hat as part of their kindergarten fees. Additional polo shirts and jumpers with the kindergarten logo are available for purchase from the kindergarten.

### **Communication**

Please notify educators if your contact details change, e.g. phone number, address, details of your emergency contacts, etc.

Most correspondence is sent to families electronically, so please ensure that you inform us of any changes to your provided contact information.

Important information is placed on the whiteboard by the entrance and emailed to families. The educational program is displayed inside.

Educators are available for short informal conversations and appointments can be made if you would like a longer opportunity to discuss your child's progress.

### **Policies**

The kindergarten policies are available in hard copy at the kindergarten.

## How to prepare your child for kindergarten:

### Plan more social activities

All preschool children have to get along with other children. If your child hasn't spent much time in a group with other children, then activities such as sharing, taking turns, and playing cooperatively can be very difficult.

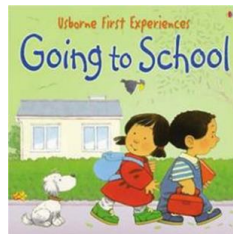
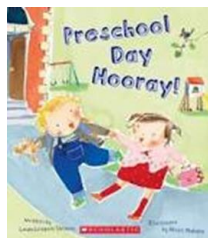
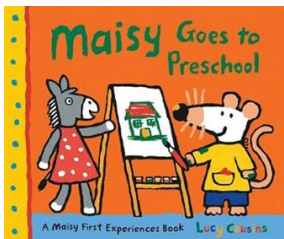
Help your child get used to being part of a group by arranging playdates with one or two peers or enrolling your child in a playgroup/kindergarten or occasional care.

### Give your child a sense of what to expect

It's the rare child who isn't at least a little anxious about starting preschool. Resist the temptation to say things like "It'll be the most fun you've ever had," or "There's nothing to be afraid of". Instead, help calm your child's fears with information.

Talk to your child about what to expect when he/she gets to preschool — where your child will be going, what he/she will be doing, and who will be in the class with your child.

You can also read stories about starting school. Some good ones to try are *Going to School*, by Anne Civardi and Stephen Cartwright, *Preschool Day Hooray!* By Linda Leopold Strauss, and *Maisy Goes to Preschool* by Lucy Cousins.



## Come up with a good-bye ritual/routine

If this is the first time your child will be away from you, she/he may worry that you're not coming back, or that you'll get lost and won't be able to find your way back to the preschool to pick her/him up at the end of the day.

Invent a special parting ritual you do each time you drop your child off — such as a high-five, or saying something like, "I'll be back to get you soon, long before we see the moon".

During the first few days, allow extra time to get your child ready and out the door in the morning. The calmer things are at home, the easier the separation will be.

And although you may be tempted to sneak out without so much as a wave when you drop your child off, don't do it. He/she will only be more distressed when he/she realises you're gone.

Instead, make a point of saying goodbye. **Don't drag it out** or let on that you may be upset, too. Just do it matter-of-factly and confidently and your child will learn to do the same.

### Practice listening skills

Preschool teachers often encourage their busy young pupils to sit still and listen. You can help your child prepare for this request by occasionally asking your child to sit quietly and close her/his eyes, and then ask her/him to tell you all the different sounds she/he hears. Talk about what's making the sounds and where the sounds are coming from.

In preschool, children also learn to listen and follow directions that involve more than one step. Start asking your child to do a series of things, such as take her/his shoes to her/his room and put them in the cupboard. Or go to the bathroom and wash her/his hands and then come and help you set the dinner table.

You can also play games that require your child to listen to directions, solve problems, and take turns. For instance, play I Spy in the car or on walks around your neighbourhood.

Give hints about something you see, "I spy with my little eye something that is...tall." Your child has to ask you questions about the object until he/she guesses what it is.

Simon Says is another good listening-and-direction-following game.



### How you feel:

How you feel about leaving your child at preschool will greatly impact on how YOUR child feels. If you are confident, your child will have a great time and enjoy his/her time at preschool. If you are feeling anxious about your child starting preschool, please see staff who will support you and your family.

### Learning injuries

During your child's time at preschool, they may get hurt while playing. We refer to these as **learning injuries**. Each injury is a chance for children to learn about their bodies, about the space around their bodies, and learn to be resilient. If first aid is given, we will leave a note in the sign-in book informing parents/carers to sign our accident report form. We will let you know if your child has a head injury, no matter how slight.

### What learning looks like in Preschool compared to school

We understand that many parents are impatient for their children to learn how to read and write. However, children need to have strong foundations in many other areas. Below is the link to ACECQA which guides the Early Years and the Early Years Learning Framework, which all preschools are required to follow.

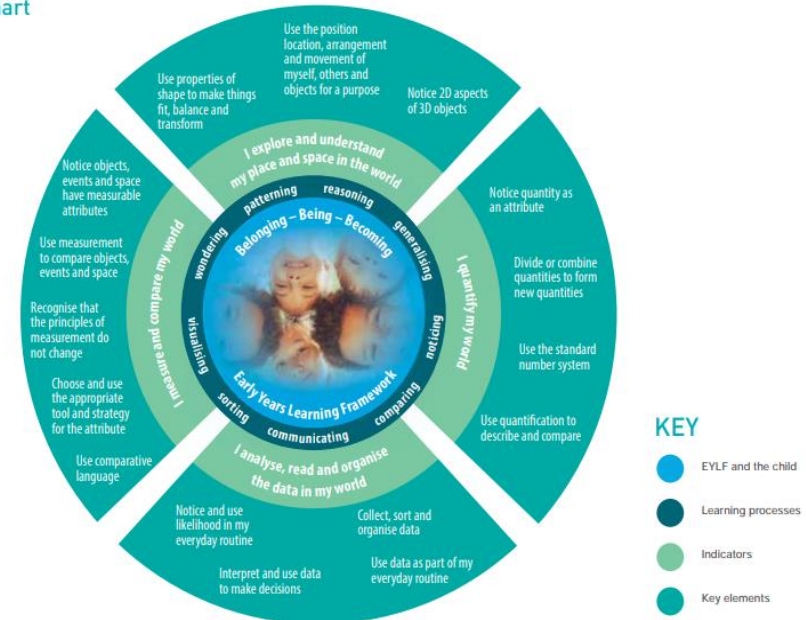
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The literacy and numeracy indicators we use to support our reporting on children's learning.

Numeracy chart



Literacy chart

