

- **Laundry and Dishes rosters**

We have a laundry and dishes roster to allow staff more time with the children. Please swap with another parent if you are not available in your allocated week.

- **Garden/ lawn maintenance**

We ask parents to volunteer for lawnmowing and weeding. Please see staff if you are able to contribute this way, either regularly or as a once off.

- **End of term clean-ups**

At the end of each term we need to ensure that the kindergarten and its resources are clean, tidy and ready for the following term. Governing Council and staff ask families for help with this so that staff are available to continue teaching and learning with the children. A list of jobs is placed on the whiteboard at the end of each term. Please add your name to one or two jobs.

- **General tasks**

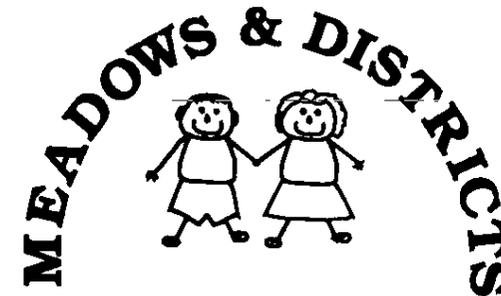
There are often tasks that parents can complete, like covering books, photocopying, etc. Please offer to help where you can.

Bushfire Information

The kindergarten has a 'low risk' bushfire rating. In the event of needing to evacuate, our first point for evacuation will be the Meadows Hall, which is situated next to the kindergarten. Our designated 'Last Resort Refuge' is the town oval. We will move to the oval when directed by Emergency Services personnel.

For the safety of your child, it is vital that you ensure that your contact details and those of any emergency contacts are kept up to date. Please advise the Director of any changes to these details as soon as they occur.

Parent Information Booklet



KINDERGARTEN



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

49 Mawson Rd, Meadows

Phone: 8388 3005

Fax: 8388 3819

Email: dl.4678.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

Welcome to Meadows and Districts Kindergarten. The information in this booklet will assist you to become more familiar with our service. We look forward to working with you and your child during this exciting time in their education.

Core Purpose

To provide quality education in partnership with children, families, local schools and the community.

All children will develop skills and understandings in a safe, equitable, respectful and supportive learning environment.

Every child is a unique individual who will learn and grow through a co-constructed 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. For further information regarding assessment and reporting please refer to our Policy Folder.

Vision

Educators, families and children will work together to provide a dynamic and natural environment where all members of the community feel valued, safe and happy.

Children will be provided with opportunities to reach their full potential, develop a passion for learning and acquire life skills that will prepare them for an ever- changing world.

Values

Caring Commitment Fairness Honesty Respect

Book Borrowing

The kindergarten has a wide range of children's books and literacy kits that are available to borrow. One book may be borrowed at a time for a maximum of two weeks. When borrowing, write the title of the book on your child's borrowing card.

Policies

Please read the kindergarten's various policies included with your enrolment pack and keep these along with this booklet for future reference.

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, and therefore your child's education 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, woodwork, cooking, sport/exercise, science, the list is endless!). Share something about your job. Please talk with staff about ways you would like to be involved in the curriculum.

- **Governing Council**

All parents are welcome to become members of Governing Council and can join at any point during the year if spaces are available. This group meets eight times a year and governs 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 the centre in good repair and fundraising for items not covered by other funding sources.

Please note all volunteers and Governing Council members must have a DCSI Police Check.

Communication

Each child has a named pocket hanging on the wall in the foyer. Please check this regularly for newsletters and other notes. Important information is also placed on the whiteboard by the front entrance. Please read this when you arrive at kindergarten. The fortnightly program is displayed in the foyer with staff details. Parent information is also in the foyer. Staff are often available for short informal conversations or appointments can be made if you would like a longer opportunity to discuss your child's progress.

Please notify staff if your contact details change, eg. phone number, address, details of your emergency contacts etc.

In case of absence/ illness

It is beneficial for your child to attend kindergarten regularly. If your child will be absent please notify staff as soon as possible, preferably the same day. Please let staff know the reason for absence as it is important that staff are aware of illnesses such as gastro or other serious infectious diseases and the presence of head lice. If your child is unwell please keep them home from kindergarten to minimise the spread of infection.

Please also be aware that the kindergarten is funded and staffed each term according to attendance, not enrolment.

Dress

Dress your child in safe comfortable clothing; pants, tops, a hat and rubber-soled shoes are preferable. Long dresses, thongs or high heeled shoes make play potentially unsafe for your child. Please send a named change of clothes in your child's bag in case they get wet or dirty. Singlets and sleeveless dresses do not fit within our Sun Safety policy.

Iron-on transfers of the kindergarten logo can be purchased.

Staff

Director	Cathy Bailey
Teacher	Sue Hyndman
Occasional Care	Robyn Jones
Early Childhood Worker	Lindsey Scholz
Support Worker	Liv Rowett

Kindergarten Services

Kindergarten is funded by the Department of Education and Child Development 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. These 15 hours are currently provided as two full days on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and one full day every 2nd Thursday. This includes a planned transition to school program with your school of choice.
- Early Entry/Extended Kindergarten - There is provision for a child to attend for an extra term in exceptional circumstances e.g. developmental delay. Please speak with the Director for more information.
- Occasional Care is available for 2 and 3 year olds on Thursdays, either from 8.45am to 11.30am or 12.15 to 3.00pm. Four year olds may be booked in when space permits. Our Occasional Care Information Brochure will provide you with more details.
- Playgroup - A parent run play session for young children and their parent/carer (0 - 5 years) on Fridays 9.30am - 11.30 am.

All services depend on vacancies and staffing.

Additional Services

A team of professionals including a Speech Pathologist, Social Worker and Psychologist may be involved with individual children. These services are provided via referral and may include assessment, funded support time and advice and training for parents, teachers and children.

Child and Youth Services offer a health check for 4.3 to 5 year old children. These are available at the kindergarten at advertised times during the year.

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

Fees

Sessional Preschool	- \$130 per term
Occasional Care	- \$5 per session, \$2-50 for 2nd child and \$1.50 for concession
Playgroup	- \$10 per term + Playgroup Association Insurance (compulsory)

Both Preschool and Occasional Care fees are paid by the term. Please refer to the Kindergarten's Fees Collection Policy for more details.

Kindergarten Procedures

Arrival

Kindergarten sessions begin at 8.45am and we ask that you do not arrive before this time. This enables staff to complete important tasks such as preparing for the day and having confidential conversations.

When you arrive please walk your child into kindergarten, assist them to place their bag in their named locker and greet the staff. Please sign your child in on the sign in sheet. If someone different will be collecting your child from kindergarten please indicate this on the sign in sheet. This person must be named as an emergency contact person on your enrolment form or they will need to show proof of ID on arrival.

Collection

It is essential to arrive by 2.45pm to collect your child as staff have important tasks that need to be completed when children are not present i.e. including team reflection, assessment and reporting, preparing experiences. Please arrive through the back door as the front door is locked during sessions for safety reasons. At the end of the day the children will be having group time and we ask that noise is kept to a minimum. Please sign your child out at collection time.

Food and Drink

Send a piece of fresh fruit or raw vegetables for a healthy morning tea. Please also pack a healthy lunch and drink of water (no cordial or juice please). Drinking water is available at all times and children are encouraged to drink regularly.

Please note that for safety reasons the kindergarten is an 'Allergy Aware' site which means no nuts or products containing nuts are allowed.