

Reynella South School Preschool



Information booklet

Welcome to Reynella South School-Based Preschool.

Set within large well-shaded grounds, our preschool is a dynamic, inclusive and vibrant centre. We offer children a range of exciting and challenging learning experiences. Our recently upgraded facilities ensure children enjoy a spacious, safe, well-resourced indoor and outdoor learning environment.

Service Statement of Philosophy

Our children are at the forefront of everything we do. We are committed to providing a nurturing and inclusive learning environment where diversity is valued and celebrated. Our program reflects children's individual needs, interests and prior knowledge and it is their voices that guide our learning journey. We value our relationships with children, families, staff and the wider community. In recognising parents as the child's first educator, we invest in developing partnerships with families and promote a welcoming learning environment where parents and carers feel comfortable to leave their children in our care.

"Educators are very friendly and supportive. They always keep us updated and help children to be independent, learn new skills and educate students in an engaging way." Yasmeen "Educators are very warm and friendly and are very good with keeping parents updated through Seesaw and in person." Tiegan "I like helping choose what we will cook and which things to try on Foody Fridays. I liked the carrot soup we made." Aleena

Our children are capable learners with unique learning styles. Literacy and numeracy are embedded into our play-based program, and we believe in assessing the benefits as well as the risk in any endeavour. Children learn best through play: we get messy, we have fun and we get excited about our discoveries.

"Tyson likes sharing his books from home with the educators and having that one-to-one attention." Tiegan "We made our own books about Grug and shared these with some of the big kids." Margot

We strive to create a fun, engaging and inspiring learning environment. We encourage children to feel free to express themselves, take risks, challenge themselves, problem solve, build resilience and persistence. We lay the foundations for life-long learning through fostering further dispositions: exploring, engaging, discovering, wondering, imagining and inquiring.

"I love coming to preschool. I loved it when we went to Bakers' Delight and the Cheesecake shop to make a cake." Aleena "I have seen amazing development in my son, you've created a solid foundation." Santana

We provide a variety of ways for children to connect with the natural environment and actively participate in sustainable practices.

"I like having the chickens. I feed them spinach and I can help in the egg shop." Malakai "I like playing with my friends in our school garden. We find lots of bugs like ladybirds and beetles" Aleena

We recognise that preschool is an important transition from home to school. Being a school-based preschool allows us to offer children a variety of rich learning

experiences that support their successful transitioning to a school environment.

"I like visiting the school library and I really enjoy the storytime." Aleena "I love going to OSHC." Tyson

Our Staff

Our teachers are Jill Brooking and Jasmyn Aitken and our co-educator is Lucy Corbett.

Our staff are very experienced in the specialised field of Early Childhood Education. We work as a team and continue to improve our skills by regularly attending professional development. Our staff are happy to answer any questions you may have about our preschool or your child, please don't hesitate to ask.

Preschool, Pre-entry, Session times and Fees

Preschool sessions:

Children who turn 4 years old before the 1st May are eligible to commence 15 hours of preschool (five sessions) at the beginning of the same school year. Aboriginal children and children under the guardianship of the Minister for Families and Communities may access preschool from three years of age. Children who turn 4 years old between May 1st and 31st October are eligible to start preschool mid-year at the start of Term 3.

FEES: \$60 per term

Our sessions are: Alternate Tuesdays 8.30-12.30

Wednesday and Friday every week 8.30am -3pm

Pre-Entry:

Pre-entry is a transition to preschool program that involves 2 visits to preschool in the term prior to children starting full time preschool sessions. Parents or caregivers are not required to stay. If you believe that your child will have difficulty with this, please discuss your concerns with educators.

Fees: \$20

Additional Support and Specialist Services

In order to best support the learning and development of all children attending our preschool we spend time getting to know the children and learning about their individual skills, knowledge and interests. If we become concerned about a child's development during these observations, staff will discuss these with parents and a referral for further assessments may be recommended. If you have any concerns about your child's development, please make an appointment to discuss these.

Referral can be made to Specialist Staff available through The Department who can provide free assessments and learning support through the Preschool Support Program. Specialists available include speech pathologists, disability coordinators, early childhood psychologists and social workers.

Children who have been identified with additional needs in their learning or development through other agencies, may also be referred for additional assistance through the Preschool Support program. Staff work with many other agencies including Novita, Disability SA, Autism SA, Child, Youth and Women's Health

Service (CYWHS), Flinders Medical Centre and Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital, to support children's learning. Early intervention is essential.

Both the onsite School Counsellor and Christian Pastoral Support Worker are also available to provide additional support to our families.

Learning Program and Curriculum

All staff collect information about the skills, abilities and interests of each child through observation, samples of work, photographs, staff discussions and parent chats. This enables us to assess children's progress and if additional assistance may be needed, in order for each child to reach their potential.

We base our curriculum planning on information we gather about your child as well as our knowledge of early childhood education, growth and development. Using the National curriculum 'Belonging, Being, Becoming' and the Preschool Indicators for Literacy and Numeracy we plan learning experiences aimed to support your child to become an independent and enthusiastic learner.

Parents are welcome to talk with a staff member at any time. If you are concerned about an aspect of your child's development we have access to a speech pathologist, early childhood psychologist, social worker and special educator. ***Be assured that these discussions are kept confidential.***

Sharing information with parents is important to us. We invite all parents to formally meet with us during their child's first and last terms of preschool. An Individual Learning Plan is established during your child's first term at preschool. The Individual Learning Plan is developed by staff in consultation with families and takes into account your child's interests, strengths and areas identified as needing support. Individual Learning Plans are reviewed throughout your child's year at preschool to ensure it changes to meet their needs as they grow. A Statement of Learning is written at the end of your child's final term at preschool to provide parents and Foundation teachers with information about your child's progress.

Each term, specialist teachers from the school provide a modified session to pre-schoolers. This may include a Physical Education, music and Technology program.

Child Health Checks

The CYWH nurse visits preschool regularly to conduct developmental screenings of children aged from four years at the preschool. This screening checks vision, hearing, general development as well as offering a chance to chat with the nurse about your child and any concerns you may have. Appointments are necessary and staff will advise when the nurse is next visiting.

Clothing and Footwear

Children need to be comfortable and secure in moving on and around climbing equipment at preschool. Physical skills are best developed through the active play, and some items of clothing can restrict this

freedom of movement or can be quite dangerous. Please dress your child in clothes that are OK to get messy or dirty and do not restrict movement when climbing. Children must wear shoes or sandals.

PLEASE NO thongs, clogs, slip-on shoes as they can be very hazardous when climbing and running.

Communication

Communication between home and preschool is essential. To aid in this process we ask that you connect with our digital learning platform, Seesaw and check regularly so that you are up to date with messages. We also encourage families to communicate with educators through this App. Staff will respond as soon as possible.

A program overview is provided to families every four weeks. Any permission forms regarding special events and excursions will be directly handed to families or provided via an OSHC staff member.

Concerns Procedure

If you have concerns relating to your child's education or experiences, please talk to us as soon as possible. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, there are other avenues you can explore. Please refer to our Parent Complaints and Concerns Procedure which can be found in the Policies folder on top of the bench above the lockers.

Health and Safety at Preschool

We encourage the use of general health and safety guidelines so that the environment is safe for all children and adults. We need parent help to achieve this, as these habits are not just learned at preschool.

These guidelines are:

- teaching children to wash hands thoroughly, to eat healthy food, to safely handle and prepare food and to enjoy animals safely
- staff use safe practices in nappy changing and toileting, and handling of blood and body fluid spills (when necessary)
- regular professional cleaning of the facilities inside and out
- keeping an ill child at home.

In the event of Illness or Injury:

If your child is unwell prior to arriving at preschool, in the interests of others, please keep your children at home. If your child becomes unwell or has an accident at preschool, we will contact you or other nominated emergency contact person as soon as possible. In an emergency staff will not hesitate to call an ambulance.

If your child has specific medical requirements:

If your child requires medication to be taken, in general it is best if this is administered at home. Most medications these days can be administered 2-3 times a day outside preschool time.

If medication must be administered during attendance at preschool, staff must follow the following guidelines:

- A *MEDICATION PLAN* and if needed, a detailed health care plan for asthma, epilepsy, anaphalaxis or other specific conditions **MUST** have been completed by a doctor detailing dosage and symptoms as well as emergency action if needed. This must also be signed by the parent and there must be a review date on an action plan.
- Medication must be supplied in original containers and labelled with the child's name and correct dosage.
- Staff must be willing and trained to administer the medication.

We sometimes have children attending who have an anaphylactic (life threatening allergic) reaction to certain foods and other substances. This may mean we need to restrict those triggers in the centre. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a safe environment for every child.

Healthy Food and Nutrition Policy

Our food policy has been developed with the help of a nutritionist, parents and staff. A copy of our policy is provided with this pack – please read it carefully. Children need a clearly named drink bottle with a secure lid, water only, and healthy food please, rather than foods high in sugar and heavily processed.

As we regularly have children with allergies it is important that that our nut-free policy is adhered to. We appreciate your assistance in providing a safe environment for every child.

Inclusion

No child or family will be disadvantaged or discriminated against because of their race, religion, nationality, ability, gender, financial situation or marital status. Please do not hesitate to speak to a staff member if you have any questions or concerns.

Library Visits

We access the school library two or three times a week for story time and book borrowing. The limit of one book per child applies to preschool children, and should books be lost parents may be liable for replacement costs.

Parent /Carer Participation

We believe a close partnership and positive working relationship between the home and preschool is vital. Families and carers play a significant role as primary educators of children. We acknowledge this and foster successful relationships through building trust, respect and open communication. We encourage families and community members to experience and celebrate the learning journeys of our children. Our preschool is not just for the children; it is for parents, caregivers and families. Without your involvement many of our programs or extra activities would not happen.

How can you be involved?

Our Preschool Parent Group meets 2 to 3 times per term. This group is essential to support fundraising activities, improvement projects and other tasks that arise along the way. Other ways you can be involved include: cooking with the children, reading a story, art and craft activities, walk and talk sessions, excursions, working bees, assisting with clean up at the end of the day/term.

If you wish to be regularly involved in activities with the children as well as excursions, you will need to complete the Volunteer Induction process offered by the school.

School Transition

We work closely with our Foundation classes to ensure children have a happy and smooth transition into school. Transition visits occur in the last few weeks of preschool and enable children to become more familiar with the school, staff, routines and expectations. We liaise with the school staff and provide a copy of your child's Summative Report to the school to ensure they have an understanding of the individual needs of your child.

Sun Smart Policy

In keeping with our sun smart policy, please make sure your child is provided with a hat to wear at preschool. Outdoor play will be restricted to the sandpit only should your child have no hat as we have a strict NO HAT, NO PLAY policy. Please ensure your child has clothing suitable for being outside in the sun: tank tops and strappy tops are not suitable. All children need a CLEARLY NAMED appropriate hat (legionnaires or wide brimmed – which protect the face neck and ears) to wear all year round. Staff model this for children by wearing appropriate hats. Children who do not have hats are asked to play in areas protected from the sun e.g. the veranda or inside. NO HAT, NO OUTSIDE PLAY

Supporting Children's Behaviour

Children's behaviour and how to support them in learning to manage and control their behaviour is the most talked about area of children's development. We recognise that most children learn best in a caring environment where the wellbeing of everyone is considered through a consistent, positive approach to behaviour support.

We use a guidance approach to behaviour management, teaching children to begin to take responsibility for their own behaviour. We aim for children to develop considerate behaviour, which includes self-discipline, empathy for others and cooperating with others and managing feelings appropriately.

We encourage children to talk through situations, the choices they could make and the possible results of their actions. We have developed a SITE BEHAVIOUR CODE which outlines our beliefs about children and their behaviours and how we support children and families.

Learning to get along with others and manage your own feelings and behaviour is one of the most important life lessons we can learn. Preschool is an ideal place to learn and practice these skills with caring adults for support.

If you are concerned about your child's behaviour at home or at preschool, please make a time to discuss this with the staff so that we can work together to help your child.

At our preschool we:

- believe everyone has the right to feel safe
- teach children to take responsibility for their own actions
- provide a supportive environment
- model and encourage positive ways of behaving
- provide explicit behaviour guidelines.