

WELCOME TO BLACKWOOD KINDERGARTEN

Welcome to Blackwood Kindergarten. We hope this pamphlet answers any questions you may have about our centre, however, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

KINDERGARTEN HOURS

Group A (Magpies) Sessions:

Monday & Tuesday: 8.30am. to 2.30 pm

Wednesday 8.30am. to 11.30 am

Group B (Rosellas) Sessions

Wednesday 12 noon. to 3.00 pm

Thursday & Friday 8.30 am. to 2.30 pm

Children are entitled to attend for 4 terms in the year prior to starting school. They must turn 4 years of age before May 1st. of that year.

Playgroup is held for under 5's on Saturdays 9 to 10.30am. \$3 per family. Bring a hat, water bottle and fruit to share.

INFORMATION POCKETS

Please check your child's information mail tubes (near the entrance under the verandah) **daily** for receipts, newsletters, notes etc.

WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS EACH DAY

- A named bag, preferably a backpack
- A named legionnaire style, CCA approved bucket or broad-brimmed hat (Bucket style Kindy hats are available for \$12)
- A change of clothes.
- Please send your child in NAMED comfortable clothes that he/she can manage themselves (and covers shoulders in summer)

- Shoes that won't slip off when climbing. (No thongs or crocs please)
- Please apply sunscreen at home. If you would like sunscreen re-applied after lunch, please supply a named tube and alert staff.
- Healthy brain food eg. Fresh fruit, cheese, for **Fruit Time** and a sandwich, salad, sushi etc for **Lunch** in a separate named lunch box. (Please do not send processed packaged foods which can be high in sugar, salt, chemicals and/or fat.) An ice pack will keep food fresh.
- A named water bottle. Fresh filtered water is always available for refills.

This kindergarten is Allergy Aware. Due to severe nut allergies in some children, please do not send any nuts, peanut butter, muesli bars, chocolates, or Nutella sandwiches. If you forget, a note will be sent home with the item in question. Thank you for your understanding.

ROUTINES

Sign in Sheets:

Please sign the "sign in/out sheet" including time of arrival / departure, when you bring & pick up your child. It is located on the table by the door.

Collection Diary:

We must be told if someone else is collecting your child. Please write this person's name and phone number in the diary next to the sign in sheet. Alternatively, please ring the centre to advise these changes.

ABSENCES

Please advise staff of any absences. To enable each child to gain maximum benefit from the kindergarten program, it is essential that children attend regularly. High attendance rates ensure the kindergarten continues to be allocated the same staff numbers as staffing is based **on attendance** not on enrolment numbers.

HEALTH

Any child who is running a temperature or showing any signs of being unwell **must be kept home.**

Please keep children home for 24 hours after the last episode of any vomiting or diarrhoea to aid your child's recovery and to prevent the spread of infection.

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Our kindergarten offers a comprehensive play based program using The Early Years Learning Framework "Belonging, Being, Becoming" which is a national curriculum framework. This is combined with the inquiry philosophy of the International Baccalaureate (IB) The 5 Learning Outcomes of the EYLF are designed to integrate & develop the complex learning dispositions, skills and knowledge of children under 5 years of age.

- Children have a strong sense of identity
 - Children are connected with & contribute to their world
 - Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
 - Children are confident and involved learners
 - Children are effective communicators
- Literacy and numeracy, the arts and science are always integrated into our curriculum.

Our program is flexible and allows children to:

- Develop their social skills through interactions with peers and staff in a safe play environment
- Use their imagination, problem solve, question, brainstorm and think critically.
- Follow up interests and to meet needs relevant to themselves and others.
- Become independent, self motivated learners
- Have the freedom to manage their own time and learning
- Have opportunities to explore a wide range of learning experiences though play

We continuously observe children, develop, record and evaluate our program to assess its effectiveness and monitor each child's developmental progress.

The children's learning and emergent curriculum is displayed in our floor books and intentional teaching may also be displayed on the notice board and in our newsletters. We value any time and skills you wish to contribute to the program and encourage your involvement in the centre to further enrich your child's learning.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Blackwood Kindergarten has access to the following services:

- Speech Therapist
- Psychologist
- Social Worker (for families too)
- Special Support Staff

If you think your child may require any of these services, please see the Director.

TERM FEES AND FINANCES

Public kindergartens in South Australia are administered by the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS)

Our kindergarten receives some money from DECD to pay teaching salaries and to assist with some day to day running costs. We still rely heavily on fees and fundraising to cover the costs of consumables, new equipment, and to maintain a high quality learning environment for the children including extra staffing.

Fees are set by the Governing Council and are invoiced at the beginning of each term.

TERM FEES ARE:

Sessional Kindergarten \$150.00 per term
(Children bring their own packed lunch.)

Emergency Care \$5.00 session

GOVERNING COUNCIL

At the local level, kindergartens are managed by a Kindergarten Director and a Governing Council. The Governing Council of our kindergarten is elected at the Annual General Meeting at the beginning of each calendar year

from parents/ carers whose children access one or more of the kindergarten's programs.

The Governing Council, using the centre's Quality Improvement Plan as a guideline:

- Approves the financial management of the centre
- Ratifies up to date policies.
- Encourages parent involvement
- Organizes and manages fundraising
- Assists in making decisions regarding kindergarten maintenance
- Attends regular meetings
- Provides valuable parent voice and feedback regarding the day to day running of the kindergarten and responds to initiatives of the Department for Child Development & Education.
- Supports children and staff in organized events.

The Governing Council meets regularly. All parents are welcome to attend, but only members have voting rights.

LIBRARY

Books and Literacy Kits are available for families to borrow one at a time please. Please fill in the necessary details in your child's record booklet on the library shelf. Staff are happy to help if you are at all unsure.

BIRTHDAYS

We love to celebrate birthdays and birthday children feel special by blowing out candles on our pretend cake, singing Happy Birthday and receiving a card.

Blackwood Kindergarten Information Brochure



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Teacher 0.3 :

ECW: Leanne Clare



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development