

Strathalbyn Kindergarten



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to all of our families for 2017. We look forward to providing a dynamic learning program for all of your wonderful children in Kindergarten and Occasional Care.

Many of you have been associated with the service for quite some time and we know that you will make all of our new families feel welcome.



Staff

We have a fantastic staff team who are always here to help you so don't hesitate to ask questions if you are not sure of anything. If you know your conversation will be lengthy we can make a time after kindergarten to meet with you.

Lynda Matthews, our much loved director, is on sick leave and Cathy Frost will be the Director for Term 1 and Term 2 across the two sites.

Coronation Rd.

Teachers - Carol Russell
Pauline Eglinton
ECWS Jo Lewis
Maxine Lademan
OC Co-ord Lakyta Kennett

Burkett Dve.

Teachers - Georgia Richmond
Penny Whittaker
ECW Maxine Lademan

Attendance

It is really important that your child attends kindergarten regularly to establish relationships with staff and other children and to be actively involved in all aspects of the curriculum.

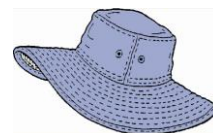
On the flip side of this it is also important that children do not attend if they are unwell. Please ring and let us know what their illness is so we can inform families if it is contagious and ensure they are completely well before they return.

Hats

Please ensure children have a named, broad brimmed hat every day. Children's play is restricted if they are not sun-safe. Parents must apply sunscreen every morning. If you do forget we have some available that you can use.

We reapply sunscreen at lunch time. Please let us know if you need to provide your own sunscreen due to allergy.

We will be reviewing our 'Sunsmart' policy and would welcome ideas. The Cancer Council has lots of information on UV protection - www.cancersa.org.au and search Sunsmart.



Healthy Lunch Boxes

Please provide your child with a healthy lunch box every day and a piece of fruit for snack time. We suggest that you monitor your child's consumption of food and if their

lunchbox is empty every day they may need more packed. Kindergarten is a very active environment and children need lots of fuel.

Avoid foods that do not fit within our Nutrition policy i.e. high in fat, sugar and salt eg sweet biscuits, lollies and chocolate, processed packaged foods and chips. We are an 'Allergy aware' site and nuts and nut products e.g. nutella are not allowed.

Please use an icepack during the warm weather as we can not refrigerate lunchboxes.

As part of our program we promote sustainability so litter free lunch boxes are preferred.

Please also ensure your child has a drink bottle with water only.



Grievance pamphlet

At all times we are strongly committed to providing a quality Early Childhood service in conjunction with families. We hope that you do not ever have cause for complaint. Always check with staff if you are not sure about something.

If you do have a complaint it is important you follow the procedure that the Department of Education and Childhood Development provides for parents. Always contact the staff member that is involved or the Director first. There is a pamphlet in your pigeon hole outlining this.

Learning through Play

Children's learning in their early years is supported by our curriculum document, the 'Early Years Learning Framework'. We will often refer to it in this newsletter, displays and your child's learning journal.

The base of our curriculum is children learning through play. In our rich play based learning environment we observe, document, plan for and evaluate for children's learning in consultation with parents.

Research on brain development shows that play shapes the structural design of the brain - play provides active exploration that assists in building and strengthening brain pathways. Play creates a brain that has increased 'flexibility and improved potential for learning later in life' (Lester & Russell, 2008, p. 9).

Young children's play allows them to explore, identify, negotiate, take risks and create meaning. Children who engage in quality play experiences are more likely to have well-developed memory skills, language development, and are able to regulate their behaviour, leading to enhanced school adjustment and academic learning (Bodrova & Leong, 2005).

Wow - your children will have learnt so much through play at home !

AGM

The AGM is on Tuesday 21st February at the Coronation Rd. Kindergarten. Kate Simpson - our Governing Council Chairperson, will be sending you some information this week. We will welcome new members from both our sites and Occasional Care.

Pigeon holes

Lots of information is shared with you through the children's pigeon holes. Please check for notices every day. Coronation Rd. - To the right of the Office door at the entrance
Burkett Dve. - Near the Noticeboard
Occasional Care - In the OC room