

# Family Information

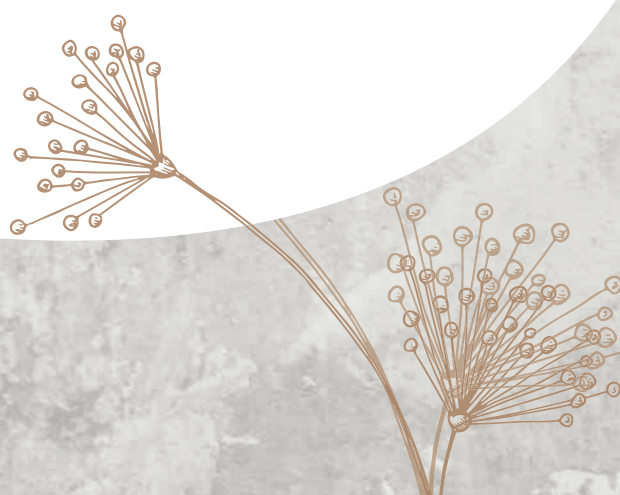


Strathalbyn  
Kindergarten



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# Our Education Team & Hours Of Operation

## CORONATION ROAD

Director : Susan Sandow

### Teachers

Carol Russell  
Pauline Eglinton

### Early Childhood Workers

Jo Lewis  
Maxine Lademan  
Samantha Bacchus  
Heather Mathison

## HOURS OF OPERATION

### Possum Group

Monday & Tuesday

8.30 am - 3.00 pm

Alternate Fridays 8.30 am to 12.30 pm

### Koala Group

Wednesday & Thursday 8.30 am - 3.00 pm

Alternate Fridays 8.30 am - 12.30 pm

\*Please see staff for alternate Friday dates

## OCCASIONAL CARE

Location: Coronation Road

Tuesday and Thursday

8.30 am – 11.30 am

12.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Friday 8.30 am – 11.30am

### Occasional Care Coordinator

Samantha Bacchus





## BURKETT DRIVE

Director: Susan Sandow

### Teachers

Georgia Richmond

Penny Whittaker

### Early childhood Workers

Maxine Lademan



## HOURS OF OPERATION

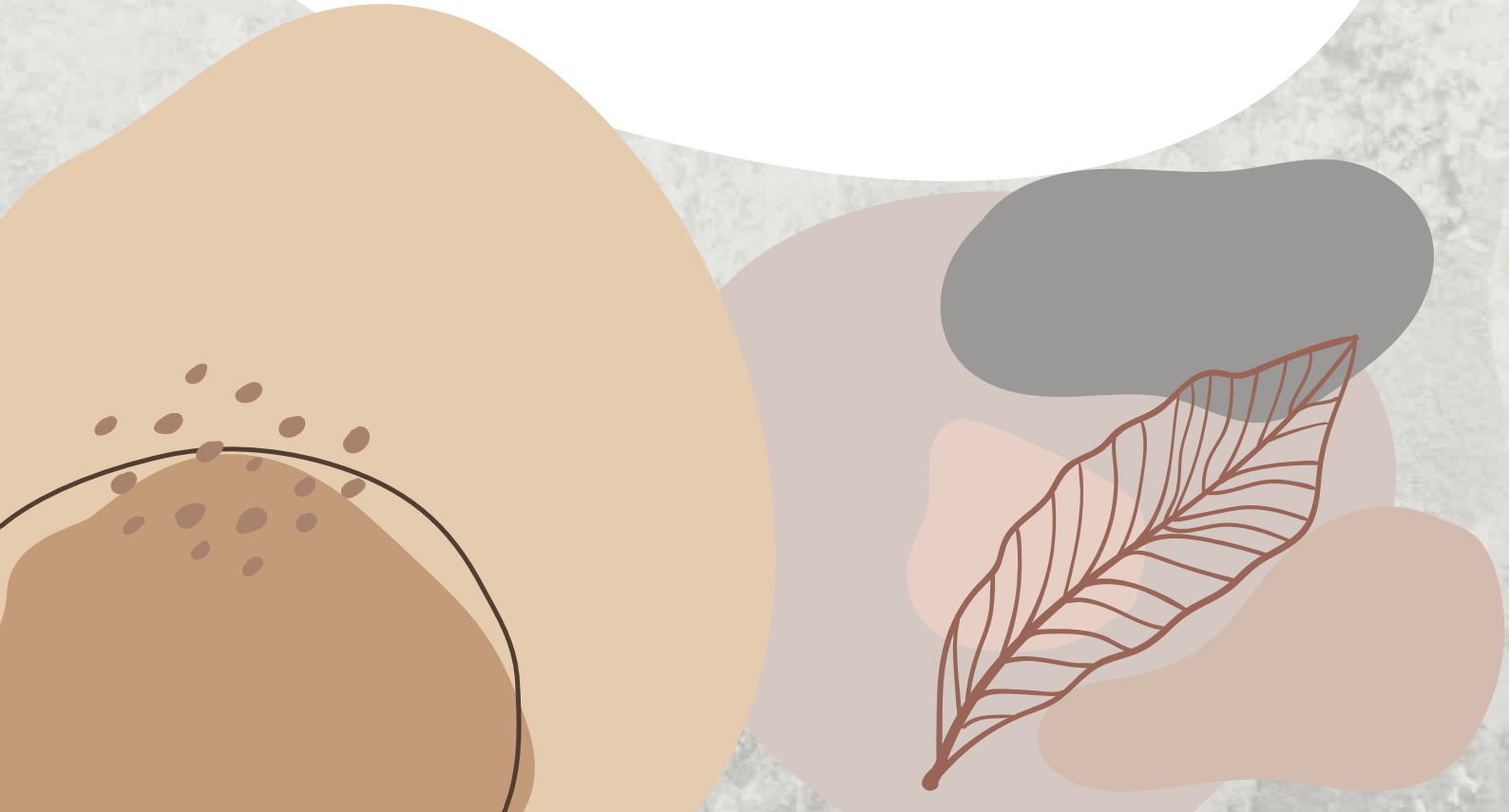
### Platypus Group

Wednesday and Thursday

8.30 am – 3.00 pm

Alternate Fridays

8.30 am - 12.30 pm





# Strathalbyn Kindergarten

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## Acknowledgement of Country



We respectfully acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri Nation and Peramangk People, as the traditional custodians of the land we share today.

We pay respects to the Elders past, present and becoming. We will honour the values and ways that our traditional custodians taught and still teach today.

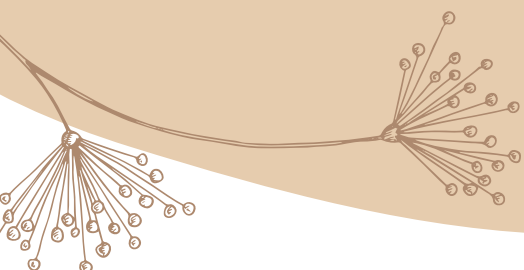
We walk together and care for this Country.



# Strathalbyn Kindergarten

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## Philosophy Statement



We acknowledge and recognise the influence and diversity of the local and broader community and welcome their input and involvement.

We believe in fostering dispositions for lifelong learning and are developing our pedagogy to create a culture of thinking and research.

We understand and provide authentic learning environments where children are challenged, problem solve, experiment and have opportunities to nurture their own creative languages.

We acknowledge the importance of long periods of uninterrupted play, where children are supported to freely explore and interact with both the indoor and outdoor learning environments.

We believe that writing develops in stages if environments are created to playfully nurture children's writing development.

We believe that children intrinsically possess a deep connection to the natural world and nurture and support this connection to grow.

We believe that children develop habits of mind or dispositions for learning.

We encourage, through teaching and our environment, children to grow their courage and curiosity, trust and playfulness, perseverance, responsibility, creativity, imagination, resilience, connectivity and appreciation of the natural world.





Education is not preparation for  
life: education is life itself.  
-John Dewey



# What will your child's Kindergarten Day look like?

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## 8:30 am:

Children arrive & play inside  
(if earlier than 8:30am please remain with your child to  
allow educators to organise our learning environment)  
Children eat their healthy snack at the tables or picnic rugs  
provided

## 10:45 am:

Children reminded to eat their healthy snack

## 11:30 pm:

Tidy up & Community time

## 12:00 pm:

Lunch and reading time whilst children  
wait for everyone to finish eating

## 12.45 pm:

Children play inside & outside  
Children eat their healthy snack at the tables provided

## 2:30 pm:

Pack Up inside & outside

## 2:45 pm:

Community time

## 3:00 pm:

Children farewelled from the mat once families have  
arrived.

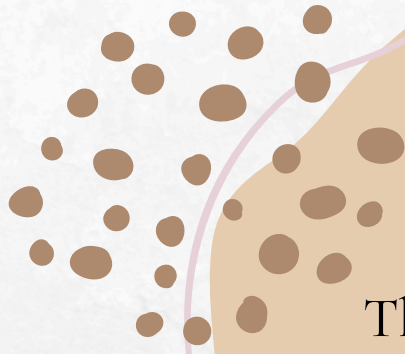


\*\*Fridays are half days.

Koala and Platypus groups attend odd weeks  
and Possums attend even weeks.







The MUD will WASH OFF  
but the MEMORIES  
will last a LIFETIME





# What should you bring each day to Kindergarten?

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- A backpack or bag with an empty soiled clothing bag inside
- A hat – either broad brimmed or legionnaire – Terms 1, 3 and 4 (Sunscreen should be applied in the morning before leaving home. Educators reapply sunscreen at lunch time).

\*Please advise us if your child has an allergy to sunscreen and needs to bring their own

- A piece of fruit or healthy snack and a packed lunch. Please use ice packs to keep food cold
- A bottle of water
- Named spare clothes

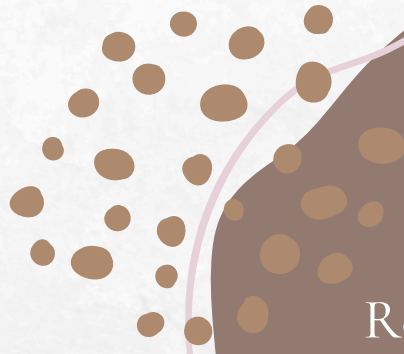
Please label all belongings clearly with your child's name.

Please keep toys and other valuables (including non-cultural jewellery) at home to avoid the high risk of being lost or broken.

We understand that for some children a special toy can be used as a comforter. Please speak to our educators if your child uses a toy for soothing and regulation.







Remember to label all your belongings!



# Clothing

For safety reasons please don't bring your children to kindergarten wearing thongs.

Please send rubber boots for wet weather play and for use in our digging patch. We have a small selection of gum boots that children can access if they forget their boots.

Please ensure your child has sun-safe clothing e.g. shirts with collars and sleeves that cover their shoulders.

Please dress your child in clothes that neither you nor your child minds if paint or mud should get onto them. We love messy play at Kindergarten and best clothes often stop children from deeply engaging in the kindergarten curriculum.

As we encourage independence when going to the toilet. Please avoid belts, overalls and clothing that is hard to undo and pull down.

Don't forget to label everything (a permanent marker name is all you need). Please provide a set of labelled spare clothes and an empty shopping bag for soiled clothing.

A simple rain jacket is a wise investment for your child, as we will access the outdoor learning environment in almost all weather.



# Healthy Eating

At Strathalbyn Kindergarten we care about children's health and promote and encourage healthy eating.

Please don't send chocolate bars, lollies and sugary/ high fat foods. Some children struggle to manage their behaviour after consuming such large amounts of sugar.

Children only drink water at kindergarten and we will refill their bottle when required.

Please care for the planet by not using plastic wraps and heavily packaged foods and please label all parts of lunch boxes, including casing or detachable lids.

Please note: We are an Allergy Aware site and we ask that you do not send nuts or nut products.

(Refer to Allergy Aware Policy)

If your child has dietary requirements either due to a medical condition or a lifestyle choice please speak to our education team.

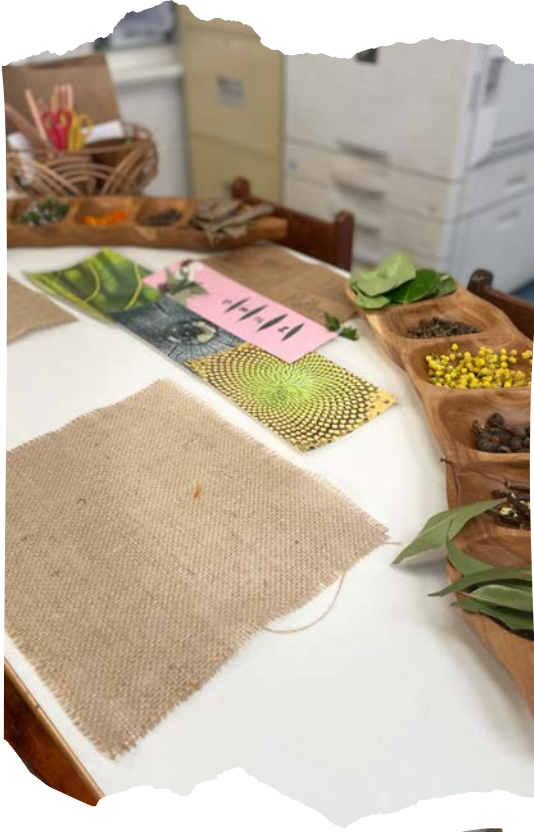
At Kindergarten it is recommended that they are provided daily with:

- 2 serves of breads and cereals e.g.
  - One sandwich
- 2 serves of vegetables
  - 1 serve of fruit
- 1 - 2 serves of dairy
- 1 serve of lean meat or meat substitutes for vegetarians such as legumes





Children learn through their interests and passions.



Learning happens indoors  
and outdoors.



Learning in context individually or in small groups.



Bookmaking, drawing, oral  
language, story tables and reading.



Children learn from peers and  
constructing meaning together.







## **Kindergarten T-Shirts**

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If you would like to order a kindergarten top or windcheater please contact Julie at the Eastern Fleurieu School Uniform Shop. There are a range of colours available.

The EFS School Uniform Shop is located at:  
29A South Terrace, Strathalbyn.

**Open Hours**  
Tuesdays 8.30am – 10.40am  
Thursdays 3.45pm – 5.45pm

# Attendance

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Your child will gain much more from kindergarten if they attend regularly, particularly establishing and maintaining relationships with educators and other children and being actively involved in all aspects of the curriculum.

It is important that children do not attend if they are unwell. Our current COVID19 response plan and the recommendations from the Department for Education state that children must not attend if they have gastro, cough, cold or flu like symptoms.

Please ring or message via our Seesaw App and let us know if they are unwell. Some illnesses are contagious and we will let our community know if a contagious illness is occurring while maintaining your confidentiality.

Please ensure children are completely well before they return. (Refer to Delivery and Collection of Children Policy)

If you are going to be absent for an extended period of time, for example a family holiday, please let our educators know.





## Collection/Delivery

We are open for drop off after 8.30 am, before this time the educators are preparing the kindergarten for the day.

Let the children do it themselves! They can pop their bag in an empty locker and find their name to label it. Children should then place their lunch box on our inside lunch shelf and their drink bottle on the trolley.

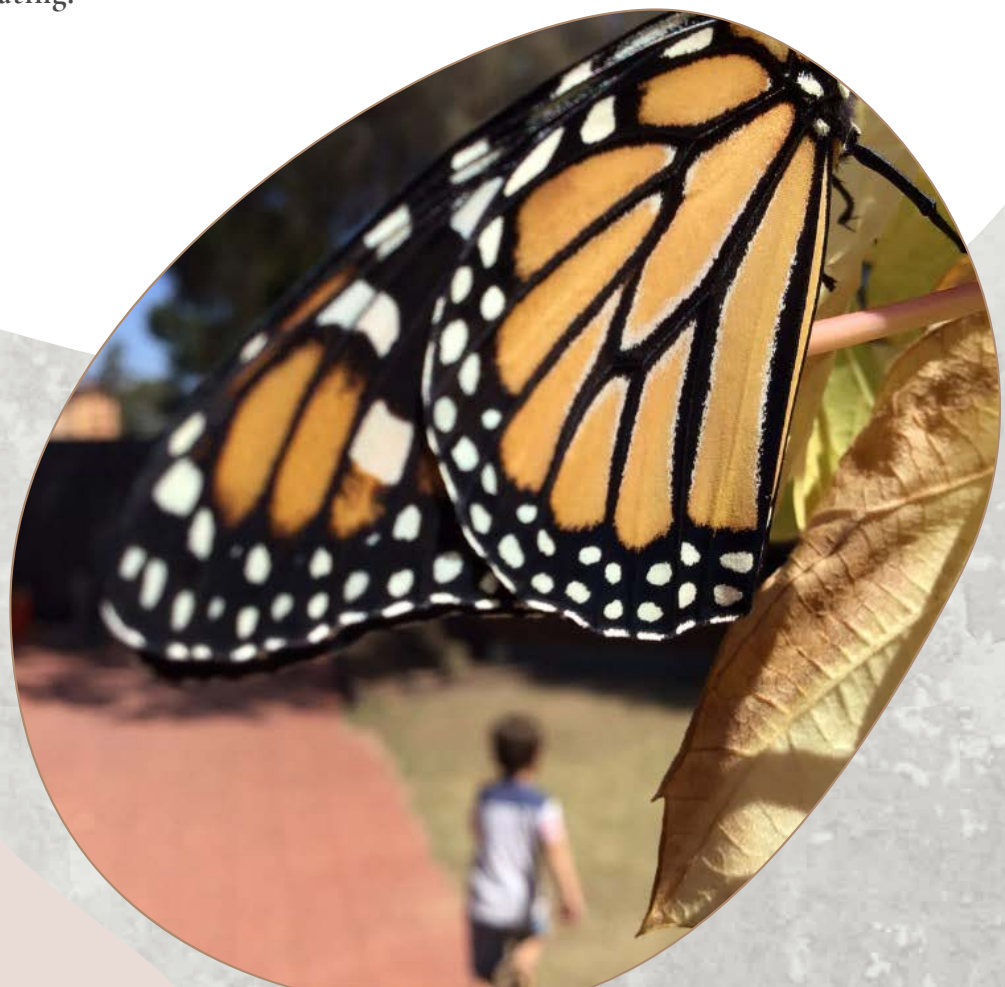
At the end of the day we gather the children for community time. Please wait for the educator to say goodbye to your child. At the beginning of the year it can be tricky to match each child to a parent, please be understanding and let the educators know if you are in a hurry.

You are welcome to collect your child from 2:30pm. Please ensure you arrive no later than 3pm. Educators often have meetings that they need to get to on time.

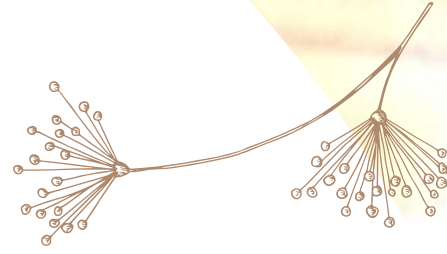
If another adult other than Parents are to collect or drop off your child please inform our educators personally of the relationship and the name of the person collecting, or via a phone call or our app. If the person collecting the child is unknown to educators we will require them to show their photo ID.

At Burkett Drive - Staff will collect and deliver kindergarten children to and from Child Care Centre if necessary.

Please don't hesitate to seek assistance from educators if your child and you need support when separating.



# Allergies / Medical Conditions



Educators, parents, guardians and health professionals work together to manage the health conditions of children who attend kindergarten.

Educators must be notified of a child's allergies, intolerances and health conditions prior to enrolment or from when you become aware of the problem. All children who are enrolled who have a medical condition must have a health care plan from a GP in place and families must complete a Health Support Plan. A Health Support Plan may be required when a parent or guardian identifies there is a support need but there is no health care plan, for example using own sunscreen. Please let educators know if you need any support in managing a health concern.

## HOW DO WE REPORT ACCIDENTS?

If your child has an accident at kindergarten, staff will assess the situation and if its more than a bump or scape we will contact you. If you child has a head or facial injury we will always contact you.

## CAN WE GIVE MEDICATION?

Yes, if you provide a medication form from the doctor. If it is cold medication or Panadol etc. then the best place for your child to be is at home. Kindy is very busy and if a child is a little flat at home they will quickly become exhausted at Kindergarten and if they are unwell then the best place for them is at home resting. Also by keeping sick children at home you are helping your community by protecting their friends and educators from infection and illness.

## WHAT IF MY CHILD BECOMES ILL AT KINDERGARTEN?

We will contact you to pick up your child. By asking parents to collect their children we are not exposing our whole group to the potential to become unwell as well.

# CHILD DEVELOPMENT - DOES YOUR CHILD NEED SUPPORT?

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Children are all different and have very different needs. They reach milestones in their own unique time and we must honour where our children are at and who they are.

If you are concerned about your child's development please make a time to speak to our team. We can help you with speech pathology, occupational therapy, psychologists and any assessments or services that may be needed.

These services are provided via referral and may include assessment and therapy for children and also, advice and training for parents educators and children. The funding available to help children is considerably less once they get older. In order help children be successful its important to access the right services as soon as possible







## ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

We plan for both the individual child and the whole group. We ask parents and carers each term to contribute to this planning by coming in and having a conversation about your child or by filling out a short survey.

Your child's learning journey is kept in their portfolio and is also sent home on our Seesaw App. Each term you will receive a short summary about your child's learning. It will be a unique experience and won't look the same as other children's learning. Each child has a primary caregiver educator who is responsible for tracking your child and meeting with you.

At the end of the year you will receive a statement of learning.



# HOW MUCH DOES KINDERGARTEN COST?

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Fees at Kindergarten are called Parent Contributions. Families will receive an invoice via their email. Parent Contributions are \$120 per term. There is an additional charge of \$30 for eligible bus children. Payment made electronically or by cash to kindergarten educators. Please see the Director if experiencing difficulties making payment - confidentiality is respected.

To pay electronically: (EFT)

BSB Number: 065-515

Account Number: 10113495

Reference: Child's surname or invoice number.



## NOTICES

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Lots of information is shared with you through the children's pigeon holes and more our Seesaw App.

Please check for notices every day.

Coronation Rd. – To the right of the Office door at the entrance

Outreach. – Near the Noticeboard

Occasional Care – In the OC room

Reminder notices and community information is also displayed in our notice boards by the entry gate at both sites.



## FUND RAISING

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We have one major fundraiser a year and would love your support.

This fundraiser assists us to provide extra staff, subsidised excursions & more resources for children.

## BUS TRAVEL

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Children who live five kilometres or more out of the town are able to apply to use the school bus to access kindergarten. Buses are provided for eligible students of Eastern Fleurieu School (EFS) who meet the criteria of the DfE Transport Policy. Kindergarten children are not eligible for travel but are permitted to travel at the discretion of the Principal of Eastern Fleurieu School.

If you wish for your child to travel on the school bus, please see educators for the necessary paperwork. Paperwork must be submitted to the high school and approved by the principal.

Kindergarten staff will collect each child from their bus and they will be transported to the kindergarten from EFS Strathalbyn following our Kindergarten's bus transport policy and the Department for Education policy for The Safe Transportation of Children.

Always inform educators if your child will be absent from bus travel.





# BELONGING, BEING & BECOMING

The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK

A national early learning framework for children from birth to five years

WHAT IS THIS LEARNING FRAMEWORK ABOUT?

The Early Years Learning Framework was developed to ensure your child receives quality education programs in their early childhood setting. This is a vital time for them to learn and develop.

The Framework's vision is for all children to experience play-based learning that is engaging and builds success for life.

It is a guide for early childhood educators who work with children from birth to five years. They will use the Framework in partnership with families, children's first and most influential educators, to develop learning programs responsive to children's ideas, interests, strengths and abilities, and recognise that children learn through their play.

The Early Years Learning Framework describes childhood as a time of belonging, being and becoming.

- Belonging is the basis for living a fulfilling life. Children feel they belong because of the relationships they have with their family, community, culture and place.
- Being is about living here and now. Childhood is a special time in life and children need time to just 'be'—time to play, try new things and have fun.
- Becoming is about the learning and development that young children experience. Children start to form their sense of identity from an early age, which shapes the type of adult they will become.



## HOW WILL IT WORK?

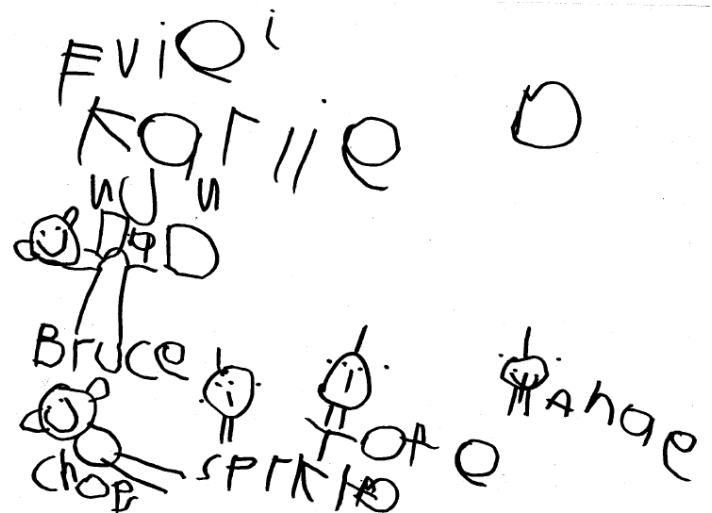
Educators will use this Framework in a range of early childhood settings, including long day care, preschools and family day care to ensure that your child receives a high quality experience. It has been created and trialled by experienced early childhood educators, academics, parents and carers.

The Framework focuses on your child's learning. Educators will work with you in order to get to know your child well. They will create a learning program that builds on your child's interests and abilities, and keep you in touch with your child's progress.

Through the Framework's five learning goals educators will assist your child to develop:

- a strong sense of their identity
- connections with their world
- a strong sense of wellbeing
- confidence and involvement in their learning; and
- effective communication skills.

"The learning outcomes are positive and help me to think about how my child is progressing"





# PLAY IS LEARNING

Play is very important for children. Through play babies and young children explore and learn to understand the world around them as they come to communicate, discover, imagine and create. When children play they are showing what they have learned and what they are trying to understand. This is why play is one of the foundations of the Early Years Learning Framework. By using this Framework educators will guide your child's play by carefully designing learning activities and stimulating indoor and outdoor learning environments.

"I want my child to have lots of opportunities for creative play"



## RELATIONSHIPS ARE KEY

It is well known that children learn best when they have secure relationships with caring adults. When children from a very early age develop trusting relationships they feel more confident and able to explore and learn.

In early childhood settings, when children feel emotionally secure they learn through play to develop the skills and understandings they need to interact positively with others and gradually learn to take responsibility.



# WATCHING YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS

Using the Early Years Learning Framework educators will observe your child's learning so they can build on it and plan the next steps. They will do this by listening, watching and talking to your child.

They will keep in touch with you regularly to discuss your child's progress. They may use photos or keep a folder of your child's work to show what your child is learning, how they are developing and what particular learning interests them.

Before your child starts school educators will prepare information about your child's learning and development to share with their new teacher. This will help ensure that your child's new school is well prepared to continue your child's learning.

"The Framework helps me to understand how skilled the staff at my centre are and what a great support they are to me and my family"

## WORKING TOGETHER

By working together parents and educators can enhance a child's learning and wellbeing. As the most important person in your child's life you can make a difference by talking regularly with your child's early childhood educator and asking about their learning. Information you provide allows educators to link your child's experiences at home with the time they spend together in the early childhood setting.

### FIND OUT MORE

This booklet is an introduction to the Early Years Learning Framework.

To find out more or to access translations visit [www.deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood](http://www.deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood) or ask your child's early childhood educator.

Produced by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for the Council of Australian Governments.

#### Reference

<https://www.deese.gov.au/national-quality-framework-early-childhood-education-and-care/resources/belonging-being-becoming-early-years-learning-framework-australia-information-families-0>



# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We Pride ourselves on providing an environment where families feel welcome. If you have any skills or interests, please let us know! Come along and read with the children, stay and play, volunteer to lead a learning experience (art, woodwork, cooking, sport/exercise, science, share something about you job, the list is endless!). Please talk to educators about ways you would like to be involved in the curriculum or how you can gain support with processing a Police clearance.

*\*All volunteers and parent helpers (people who assist with reading, governing council, excursions, fundraising etc, must be COVID vaccinated and have a Police clearance).*

## GOVERNING COUNCIL

### **WHO IS ON THE GOVERNING COUNCIL COMMITTEE?**

The governing council committee is made up of both Kindergarten educators and parent volunteers



### **BENEFITS OF BEING A COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER!**

Not only will you support the kindergarten, but it can also be very rewarding for you. Committee parents have the advantage of hands-on involvement in their child's early education. It is a fantastic way to meet new friends in a fun and relaxed manner. Refer to the governance and management of the service policy.

### **CAN I BE A COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER?**

Parent members are elected at the annual general meeting (AGM) which is held in February each year. There are both specific positions (chairperson, secretary, treasurer, fundraising coordinator) and general positions available within the committee.

### **HOW MUCH TIME WILL IT TAKE TO BE IN THE COMMITTEE?**

Meetings are held twice a term. We hold an end-of-year celebration to thank our volunteers.

# Policies

Our site specific policies have been written in consultation with the Governing Council. Some can be viewed on our website: <https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/strathalbyn-kindergarten>

Please ask educators to show you where hard copies of policies are kept at the site.

All policies relevant to kindergartens can be accessed on the Department of Education and Childhood Development website- go to [www.decd.sa.gov.au](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au) and click on Policies A-Z on the right hand side of the home page.







THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING STRATHALBYN  
KINDERGARTEN

“We see a child who is driven by the enormous energy potential of a hundred billion neurons, and by the incredible curiosity that makes the child search for reasons for everything, and who has all the strength and potential that comes from the ability to wonder and to be amazed. A child who is powerful from the moment of birth because of being open to the world, and capable of constructing his or her own knowledge”.

Carla Rinaldi – Re-Imagining Childhood

Welcome to  
Strathalbyn Kindergarten

# Contact Us

## Site Details



### CORONATION ROAD

Phone: (08) 8536 2078  
Address: 9 Coronation Road  
Strathalbyn 5255

### BURKETT DRIVE

Phone: (08) 8536 4511  
Address: 1A Burkett Drive  
Strathalbyn 5255

### WEBSITE

[https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/  
strathalbyn-kindergarten](https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/strathalbyn-kindergarten)

### EMAIL

[DL.3688.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:DL.3688.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)

