

Table of contents

- Home
- What we offer
- Enrolment and fees
- Reports and plans
- Parenting support
- Policies and guidelines
 - [athelstone_health-and-wellbeing](#)
 - [athelstone_behaviour](#)
 - [athelstone_sun-smart](#)
 - [athelstone_philosophy](#)
 - [athelstone_hot-weather](#)
 - [athelstone_healthy-eating](#)
 - [athelstone_communication](#)

Home



You can find out more about our goals and our focus in our philosophy statement (PDF 199KB) (https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/sites/g/files/net4016/f/athelstone_philosophy.pdf).

Governing council

We invite you to join the governing council, which meets twice a term to ensure the smooth running of the preschool. Read through what a governing council does (<https://www.decd.sa.gov.au/sites-and-facilities/governing-councils/understanding-governing-councils/what-governing-council-does>) and speak to us to register your interest.

Contact us

Preschool director: Miss Stacy Pastro

Phone: (08) 8337 5493

Fax: (08) 8365 5738

Email: dl.4603.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

Street address: 338 Gorge Road Athelstone SA 5076

Postal address: 338 Gorge Road Athelstone SA 5076

What we offer

We offer a number of programs and services to support your child's early years learning (<https://www.decd.sa.gov.au/teaching/curriculum-and-teaching/primary-and-secondary-curriculum/curriculum-taught-south-australia>).

Preschool program

Times

Your child can attend preschool for up to 15 hours per week.

Children can come for 5 days over 2 weeks, or they can be part of either Group 1 or Group 2.

Times: 9.00pm to 3.00pm.

Group 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00am to 3.00pm	9.00am to 3.00pm	9.00am to 3.00pm alternate weeks	–	–

Group 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
–	–	9.00am to 3.00pm alternate weeks	9.00am to 3.00pm	9.00am to 3.00pm

Fees

The parent contribution is \$160 per term. See our enrolment and fees (<https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/enrolment-and-fees-athelstone-kindergarten>) page for more information.

Excursions, events and group photos are not covered by the preschool program fees and will incur additional costs.

What to bring

Children need to bring these items each day:

- bag
- drink bottle containing water
- two pieces of fruit or vegetables
- healthy lunch
- hat
- change of clothes.

Please write your child's name on everything they bring.

Shoes need to be suitable for climbing and running. Thongs and rubber boots are not appropriate.

What not to bring

Children should not bring these things:

- food containing nuts (some children have nut allergies that can be dangerous)
- toys from home.

Additional information

For more information about suitable foods, please see our healthy food supply and nutrition policy (PDF 230KB) (https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/sites/g/files/net4016/f/athelstone_healthy-eating.pdf).

Literacy kits

You may borrow literacy kits at any time for up to 1 week. The kits contain a story book and items that relate to the story (such as puppets, puzzles or games), plus a question card for you to use with your child.

Additional information

Please speak to us to find out how to borrow a literacy kit.

Children's library

On Tuesdays or Thursdays your child may borrow a book from our preschool library.

What to bring

A material library bag (approximately 35 x 35cm) with your child's name clearly marked.

Additional information

Please take good care of the books. You will be responsible for payment in cases of damages or loss.

Parent library

We have a range of books, magazines and DVDs that cover parenting topics that you are free to borrow.

Additional information

You are welcome to recommend any other books for the parent library. Please speak to us for more information.

Disability support

There is support available for children with disability (<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/supporting-students/children-disability-and-special-needs>). Talk to us for more information.

Enrolment and fees

When your child can start preschool

Your child is entitled to access 1 year of preschool.

If your child turns 4 before 1 May, they can start preschool at the beginning of the year. If your child turns 4 on or after 1 May, they can start the next year.

If you want to delay your child's start to preschool or you're not sure about when they should start, please talk to us about your options.

If your child is Aboriginal or under guardianship (in care) they are eligible for 12 hours of preschool after they turn 3. They will then be eligible for 15 hours per week of preschool in the year before they start school.

Early entry

Your child may be able to come to preschool 1 term earlier, in term 4 the year before starting their preschool year, if they:

- have additional needs or disability
- are learning English as an additional language or dialect
- are at significant risk because of family circumstances.

Early entry is for up to 6 hours per week, if places are available.

Access is decided on a case-by-case basis.

Please contact us if you want more information about early entry.

Enrolling your child

You can register your interest to enrol your child with us by using the preschool registration of interest form (<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/doc/preschool-registration-interest-form>). This form is also available from us.

Try to register your interest by 30 June, but you can do this any time during the year.

Priority will be given to children living in our catchment area (<https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/athelstone-preschool#location>). If you don't live in our catchment area you should indicate at least 2 other preschool options on your form.

If we can give your child a place with us we'll send you an offer letter in term 3 (<https://www.decd.sa.gov.au/teaching/south-australian-state-schools-term-dates>). You can accept the offer by filling in and sending back the acceptance slip by the due date.

Before your child starts

We will contact you in August to arrange a parent information meeting and visits for the children.

Before your child starts preschool you can come to pre-entry transition visits. These will be in term 4 and will be a chance for your child to meet the staff and other children.

Fees

We ask you to contribute towards the cost of your child attending preschool.

The parent contribution is \$160 per term.

We offer other programs that may have additional costs
(<https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/what-we-offer-athelstone-kindergarten#athelstoneprograms>).

When to pay

Invoices are issued each term in communication pockets and will specify payment due dates.

Please contact us if you are having difficulty paying.

How to pay

Fees can be paid by cash, cheque or EFT. If you are paying by cash or cheque, please put the money or cheque in a sealed envelope with your child's name on the front. Put the envelope in the fees box located by the communications pockets.

EFT details are provided on the invoice.

Immunisations

When you enrol your child you will be asked to provide evidence of their immunisation status
(<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/supporting-students/health-e-safety-and-wellbeing/early-childhood-services-immunisation-requirements>).

Plans and reports

National Quality Standard rating

Our services are assessed and rated against 7 quality areas of the National Quality Standard.



Overall Rating: Exceeding NQS

Quality Area Ratings

- | | | |
|----------|--|---------------|
| 1 | Educational program and practice: | Exceeding NQS |
| 2 | Children's health and safety: | Exceeding NQS |
| 3 | Physical environment: | Exceeding NQS |
| 4 | Staffing arrangements: | Exceeding NQS |
| 5 | Relationships with children: | Exceeding NQS |
| 6 | Partnerships with families and communities: | Exceeding NQS |
| 7 | Leadership and service management: | Exceeding NQS |

Rating for: Athelstone Preschool

Rating issued: September 2013

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Quality improvement plan

An assessment of the programs we offer against the National Quality Standard and national regulations. It identifies areas for improvement and includes our philosophy statement.

Quality improvement plan (PDF 164KB)

(
https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/sites/g/files/net4016/f/athelstone_preschool_-_quality_improvement_plan.pdf)

Site context statement

A summary of our:

- general information
- key policies
- curriculum
- staff
- facilities
- local community
- partnership arrangements with other groups.

Site context statement (PDF 89KB)

(
https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/sites/g/files/net4016/f/athelstone_preschool_-_site_context_statement.pdf)

Annual report

A report on our progress, achievements, highlights and challenges for the year.

Annual report (PDF) (http://docs.decd.sa.gov.au/Sites/AnnualReports/4603_AnnualReport.pdf)

Parenting support

Giving your child a strong start in the early years

Research tells us that quality education and care early in life leads to better health, education and job outcomes in adulthood. Children are learning and growing from the time they are born. The greatest influence on a child's future health, development and happiness is in the first 5 years of life.

We're working with families to take a 'learning together' approach about child development in the early years.

Parenting resources

Several early childhood parenting resources are available to help your child learn and grow right from the start.

Little Big Book Club (<http://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/>) supports parents to read, sing and play with their children from birth, with access to book recommendations, reading packs and resources.

Dad's Read (<http://dadsread.org.au/>) offers advice for fathers to encourage reading together with their child.

Parenting SA (<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parenting-and-child-care/parenting/parenting-sa>) has free parenting factsheets, videos and upcoming seminars on many parenting topics.

Positive Parenting program
(<http://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/au-uk/en/find-help/triple-p-parenting-in-south-australia/?itb=bc37e109d92bdc1ea71da6c919d54907>) has free seminars, workshops and one-on-one sessions for parents of children aged 3 to 12 years.

Learning with your child (GreatStart)
(<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parenting-and-child-care/parenting/learning-your-child-greatstart>) gives parents everyday learning ideas and activities to help build their child's maths and language skills.

Raising Children Network (<http://raisingchildren.net.au/>) provides up-to-date, evidence-based, scientifically validated information about raising children and caring for yourself as a parent or carer.

Absences and medical information

Absences

If your child will be absent from preschool we would appreciate it if you contact us. If your child has been diagnosed with an infectious disease – e.g. chicken pox, please notify us immediately.

Health Checks

Vision, hearing and development check-ups by a nurse are held each term for children older than 4yrs 3mths. The dates will be posted in the newsletter. Appointments are for half an hour and a parent/caregiver must accompany your child.

Medication

If your child needs to take medication prescribed by a doctor during session time, please speak with the Director to arrange a consent form. Any medication must be brought into the kindergarten kitchen for storage. Please DO NOT leave medication in your child's bag. If your child requires an Asthma puffer or Epi Pen they will need a management plan written by your doctor. Please speak to the Director for arrangements.



Athelstone Preschool

Site Behaviour Code

As a kindergarten community we believe:

- All children have the right to feel secure and to learn and develop in a psychological and physically safe, environment
- Children have a right to express their feelings and to be supported to develop positive behaviours that underpin the development of relationships with peers and adults
- Effective communication and learning occurs when families and educators work together to develop common goals for a child's wellbeing, learning and development.
- That the consideration of children's individual, and contextual needs are crucial to successful learning and the development of positive behaviours
- That family consultation is valued and their individual perspectives respected
- Children have the right to be supported by educators who model appropriate behaviours and ensure consistent limits are set
- No child should be made to feel rejected, insecure, embarrassed or ashamed

As a staff team we promote positive behaviour and interactions by:

- Planning for and providing an environment that promotes a sense of belonging, being and becoming and provides enhanced opportunities for learning through play
- Ensuring that limits set are reasonable and understood by all children and adults
- Providing an enriching and engaging program that enables each child to experience success, a sense of wellbeing and gives opportunities to express feelings through sensory and other forms of play
- Using positive verbal and non-verbal guidance
- Demonstrate empathy and sensitivity to each child being mindful of the variety of factors that influence behaviour
- Planning enabling opportunities for the development of skills including resilience, agency, entry and exit skills when playing, appropriate risk taking, conflict resolution, independence, leadership, respect for others and communication.
- Interacting positively, using positive language and acknowledging and modelling respectful behaviour
- Intentional teaching of appropriate behaviours and play skills, building on each child's strengths and achievements and providing choices when possible

We will respond to challenging behaviours by:

- Reminding children of expectations and limits and the reasons for these
- Supporting children to problem solve, negotiate, find resolutions and manage emotions appropriately
- Communicating with and involving families at the earliest opportunity to work together positively to assist the child's wellbeing and learning
- Assessing individual children's learning and development and reflecting on and reviewing our planned program and how the active learning environment supports positive behaviours
- Planning, implementing, monitoring and reviewing individual behaviour plans (when needed) in partnership with families and support services
- Being aware of our limitations and seeking assistance when required
- Withdrawing children when they are at risk of hurting themselves or others, ensuring that an adult is with them all the time

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

Respecting and caring for others

Sharing and taking turns

Being co-operative

Being polite

Participating in activities

Being friendly

Listening

Helping

Using appropriate social language and

actions (eg. "please stop, I don't like

it when you.....")

Valuing other people's property

(including something they made or built)

Walking inside the building

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR

Hitting

Kicking

Spitting

Pushing

Pinching

Swearing

Yelling at others

Bullying

Name calling

Verbal abuse

Threatening others

Biting

Throwing – sand, stones or toys

Climbing fences/gates

Running

Destruction of property



Athelstone Preschool

Sun Protection Policy

The aims of the Athelstone Preschool skin protection policy are to promote among children, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths.
- Personal responsibility for and decision making about skin protection.

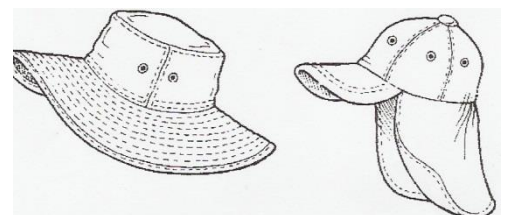
Implementation

This policy is for implementation from 1 September to 30 April. Outside of this time care should also be taken when the ultraviolet radiation level is 3 (moderate) and above.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that all members of our Preschool are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful rays of the sun.

It is an expectation that all staff, students and parents of Athelstone Preschool will use the following skin protection strategies:

- Take care to protect the skin when the ultraviolet radiation level is 3 (moderate) and above. Extra care should be taken between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm when UV radiation levels are highest.
- Use the shade of trees, pergolas, umbrellas and tents whenever outdoors.
- Wear appropriate clothing which protects the skin.
- Children, staff and parents will be expected to wear a broad brimmed hat or legionnaire style hat whenever they are involved in outside activities.
- Children and adults will wear shirts with sleeves to cover their shoulders when outside.
- Staff will encourage parents to apply sunscreen before Kindy sessions.
- Children will be supported to apply 30+ sunscreen at lunchtime in preparation for playing outside.
- Staff will model appropriate SunSmart strategies at all times.
- Information about the Sun Protection Policy will be given to all new members of the preschool.



Reviewed 2017



Athelstone Preschool

Philosophy Statement

At Athelstone Preschool we provide a rich play based curriculum which aims to foster children's creativity, resilience, social skills, problem-solving and social justice.

We believe that children's love for learning is enriched by strong relationships between home and preschool. We encourage parents to actively participate in the learning journey, including supporting the learning at home. At Athelstone Preschool staff work in collaboration with the parents and broader community to create a strong learning community.

The staff team works with parents and children to create an environment in which children can learn, explore and take risks. At times during the day the staff engage with children to further their play and at other times we stand back and observe in order for children to be independent and further their own learning. The preschool community interacts with each other in a respectful manner and deals with grievances with a focus on maintaining a strong relationship for the good of the children. Staff focus on building strong relationships with children, and creating a nurturing environment in order to foster a sense of belonging and emotional wellbeing.

Athelstone Preschool is inclusive and respectful of all cultures and backgrounds. We embrace diversity and the different backgrounds that children bring with them.

As a preschool community we are aware of our responsibility to the natural environment and strive to work sustainably.

The staff team at Athelstone Preschool has high expectation for all children's learning. We take time to understand each child's learning styles, needs and interests and incorporate these into the learning program. The staff team has consistent and clear expectations to foster positive behaviours and children are encouraged to actively participate in solving problems or issues. We believe in the importance of lifelong learning and model this to the children by our commitment to continuous learning and improvement.



Athelstone Preschool

Hot Weather Policy

This policy has been developed in consultation with governing council to outline how staff at Athelstone Preschool will reduce the risk of heat illness to young children during hot weather.

Shade Activities conducted in periods of hot weather are to be undertaken in shaded areas. On hot days all outdoor equipment will be placed under the verandas and shade cloths. These will be moved as needed during the day to follow the shade.

Equipment All play equipment and outdoor play surfaces will be checked during the day by staff to ensure they are at a safe temperature. If equipment is deemed unsafe it will be packed away, moved into the shade, or made off bounds to the children.

Outdoor activity On days of extreme heat outdoor play will be kept to a minimum. Children will play inside with the cooling system on.

Drinks Children are frequently reminded and given the opportunity to drink water. The children's water bottles are available to the children at all times.

Clothing Parents are encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activity and of a type that is sunsafe (See also Athelstone Preschool Sun Protection Policy)

Lunch Parents are to be encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer brick or frozen water. Lunch boxes are placed inside.



Athelstone Preschool

Healthy Food Supply and Nutrition Policy

Rationale

Athelstone Preschool promotes safe, healthy eating habits in line with the Right Bite Healthy Food and Drink Supply Strategy for South Australian Schools and Preschools and relates to the DECD wellbeing strategy.

We believe that early childhood is an important time for establishing lifelong, healthy eating habits and can benefit the children in three ways:

1. Short term: maximises growth, development, activity levels and good health.
2. Long term: minimises the risk of diet related diseases later in life.
3. Good nutrition contributes to good health and wellbeing and this is vital for positive engagement in learning activities.

Therefore:

- staff at this preschool model and encourage healthy eating behaviours
- food and drink are consumed in a safe, supportive environment for all children
- parents and caregivers are encouraged to supply healthy foods that fit within the Right Bite strategy for their children at preschool.

This food policy has been established after consultation with staff and parents within the preschool community.

Curriculum

Our preschool's food and nutrition curriculum:

- is consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Children and Adolescents in Australia, and the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating
- includes activities that provide children with knowledge, attitudes and skills to make positive healthy food choices and learn about the variety of foods available for good health
- includes opportunities for children to develop practical food skills like preparing and cooking healthy food
- integrates nutrition across the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia where possible, relating to the Developmental learning outcome: 'Children have a strong sense of wellbeing'.

The Learning environment

Children at our preschool:

- have fresh, filtered tap water available at all times and are encouraged to drink water regularly through the day
- will eat routinely at scheduled break times
- eat in a positive, social environment with staff who model healthy eating behaviours
- use the preschool garden to learn about and experience growing, harvesting and preparing nutritious foods

Our preschool:

- provides rewards/encouragements that are not related to food or drink
- understands and promotes the importance of breakfast and regular meals for children
- teaches the importance of healthy meals and snacks as part of the curriculum
- is a breastfeeding friendly site

Food supply

Our preschool has the following guidelines for families for food brought from home:

Morning and afternoon fruit time:

Parents and carers are encouraged to supply fruit and vegetables at fruit time to:

- provide children with important minerals and vitamins
- encourage a taste for healthy foods.

Lunch

Parents and carers are asked to pack small serves of nutritious foods as recommended in the Right Bite Guidelines and summarised below:

- Fresh sandwich with healthy fillings or unsalted crackers
- Yoghurt
- Dried fruit
- Cheese

After children have eaten their sandwich it is acceptable for them to have something from the Amber category such as a sweet biscuit or muffin. We do not encourage chocolate, chocolate custards or pre-packaged, high sugar bars (eg. LCM bars)

Food safety

Our preschool:

- promotes and teaches food safety to children as part of the curriculum
- encourages staff to access training as appropriate to the Right Bite Strategy
- provides adequate hand washing facilities for everyone
- promotes and encourages correct hand washing procedures with children and staff.

Working with families, health services & industry

Our preschool:

Provides information to families and caregivers about the Right Bite Strategy through a variety of ways including:

- newsletters
- policy development/review
- information on enrolment
- pamphlet/poster displays
- promotes the alignment of fundraising with the Right Bite strategy.

In order to protect all children, we ask that foods do not contain nuts.

For the full details see www.decd.sa.gov.au/eatwellsa

Reviewed 2017

Communication with parents procedures

Newsletters:

Kindergarten newsletters are distributed at regular intervals throughout each term. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for any information that you would like to be included. Newsletters can be collected from your child's communication pocket (in the parent room).

Sign in/out sheet:

This is located on the kitchen bench so that you can sign your child in and out each day. Please write in this if somebody different will be collecting your child and also speak to the staff.

(If there are legal restrictions on any persons having contact with your child, then a copy of the appropriate order must be given to the Director).

Communication regarding your child's learning at Kindergarten:

The staff enjoys talking with parents about all of the wonderful things that the children have been doing, so you are welcome to speak to us at any time. There are opportunities at the end of each session for informal discussions with any of the staff.

Each child will get an Individual Learning Plan containing learning goals. This is created using observations and information from parents. The teachers will discuss this plan with parents or put it in their learning folder. At the end of your child's time at kindergarten, the staff will write a summary report about your child's learning and development at kindergarten. Parents will have opportunities to discuss the report with one of your child's teachers. Parents will receive their child's report and a copy will be sent to the school that your child is to attend. This enables the school to attain some knowledge of your child's development in order to plan for their learning.

Your child's learning and development is important to us. If you wish to have a more formal discussion, or you wish to discuss a matter confidentially, please arrange an appointment time with one of the teaching staff.

Whiteboard:

On the whiteboard outside you will be able to read about what is happening that week, any special events or reminders.