

Golden Grove Kindergarten



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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Golden Grove Kindergarten Philosophy

At Golden Grove Kindergarten we provide a high quality play based curriculum inspired by nature for all children, within a safe, friendly and nurturing environment.

We believe:

Relationships are important to the development and learning of children. Educators develop, establish and maintain genuine warm and responsive relationships between children, educators and families. We create a sense of belonging where children's and families' voices, cultures, identities, abilities and strengths are acknowledged, included and valued.

Children are capable learners, rich in potential, and come to us with a wealth of knowledge, experience and ideas about the world. We encourage children to share and explore their experiences, ideas, comments, working theories and curiosities with peers, families and educators. This is offered through a play based and open ended learning environment where children actively engage in authentic, real life, relevant and hands on learning experiences. This promotes deep level learning, opportunities for experimentation, exploration, creativity, discovery, challenge and safe risk taking.

Children have a right to connect and learn through nature play, developing a sense of responsibility to care for the environment. We value and provide children with opportunities to experience their natural surroundings within and outside the kindergarten. This supports and encourages the learning dispositions of persistence, curiosity, imagination, resilience, risk taking, self-regulation, resourcefulness, collaboration, confidence and concentration.

An authentic and rich curriculum enhances and promotes children's learning and development. Educators collaboratively observe, plan and reflect on children's learning, voice, interests, social interactions and experiences using the Early Years Learning Framework and the Preschool Literacy and Numeracy indicators to guide the curriculum decision making and practices.



Welcome to Golden Grove Kindergarten

We welcome your child and your family to Golden Grove Kindergarten.

We value and welcome parent involvement at Golden Grove Kindergarten.

We look forward to spending time with you and your family.

The values of our Kindergarten are:

- Respect
- Caring
- Self-worth
- Celebrating effort
- Quality
- Diversity



Kindergarten Sessions

Full Day Monday-Thursday

8:30-9am — 3-3:15pm

Alternate Fridays **8:30-11:30 am**

Start and end of session times are staggered to enable access to the car park and to meet families and children's needs with morning routines.

Please Note: All children need to be picked up promptly by our end of session times, as this assists staff with packing up and re-organising the kindergarten. We recommend picking up your kindy child before picking up your school aged child.

Children are entitled to up to 15 hours per week for 4 terms prior to commencing school.

GROUP A Mon & Tues Full day + alternate Friday (odd weeks)

GROUP B Wed & Thurs Full day + alternate Friday (even weeks)

PLEASE BE ADVISED: On the last Friday of every term there is no kindy session. This is to allow staff to, clean up and review the term, organise and plan for the next term.

Daily Routine

8:30-9 Arrival. Inside active learning time. Large group time when bell rings

9 Large Group Time

9:10 Small group time

9:30 Active learning time. Inside and Outside

11:45 Relaxation

12 Lunch

12:30 Active learning time. Inside and Outside

2:35 Pack Up

2:50 Large Group time

3-3:15 Farewell

FRIDAY HALF DAYS

8:30-9am Arrival. Inside Active learning time

9 Active learning time inside and outside

11 Pack Up time

11:15 Large Group time

11:30 Farewell time



What to bring

Bag

Each child needs a bag for their snack and to carry home items made at kindy. Please make sure all items your child brings to kindergarten are labelled, including clothing, shoes, hats, lunch box, water bottle and bag. We recommend "Stuck on you" labels (there are also many other brands) they are great for labelling all items & can easily be ordered online and posted to you.

Hat

Hats (broad-brim or legionnaires) are worn from 1st August -30th April and on days when the UV rating is forecast 3 and over. We follow the recommendations from the Cancer Council SA. Please send a (named) hat in your child's bag, between August 1st and April 30th and on days when the UV rating is forecast 3 and over. **Please note hats with cords are not permitted at kindy, as these are a safety hazard.**

Please apply sunscreen at home, when UV is forecast 3 and above. As a part of our lunch time routine, children are assisted to apply sunscreen when the UV is forecast above 3. As directed by our Sun smart Policy, required by the National Quality Standard.

Healthy Snack Routine

Please send a healthy snack for your child to eat at Kindy. *Please pack "green foods", fruit, vegetables, cheese, dry biscuits, dried fruit, and yoghurt. Please avoid sending "red foods", rollups, chips, chocolate, sweet biscuits, sweets/lollies, cakes, and drinks other than water.*

Children choose to eat their healthy snacks during Active Learning Time. Snacks stay in children's bag. Children eat at the tables on the verandah.

Water bottle

Please bring a water bottle containing **WATER only** for your child. Water is the best drink for prevention of dental cavities and for good brain growth and function. Your child's water bottle stays in their bag.

This is part of our Healthy Food and Nutrition Policy as required by the National Quality Standard, and aligned with the Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) Right Bite Policy.

Lunch

Please pack a filling and nutritious lunch

Main – sandwich, wrap. Educators encourage children to eat their sandwiches first
Plus - Fruit, yoghurt, cheese, vegetable wedges, plain popcorn
With a frozen ice brick in an insulated lunch pack.

Please avoid packing "red" foods (as listed above). Please avoid packing any extra drinks. Children drink from their water bottles during lunch time. Children's drink bottles are refilled with water by staff, if needed throughout the day. You will receive a note indicating if your child has had their water bottle refilled throughout the day.

Please encourage your child to put their lunch bag in the trolleys on the verandah on arrival. The lunch routine involves applying sunscreen, washing hands, children getting their water bottle from their bag and lunch box from the trolley. Children sit together as a group eating lunch on picnic mats and tables on our verandah.

This is part of our Healthy Food and Nutrition Policy as required by the National Quality Standard, and is aligned with the Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) Right Bite Policy.

Spare Clothing and Clothing for Active Play

Young children learn through experiencing the world around them. At Golden Grove Kindergarten children have the opportunity to engage in a range of learning experiences that involve sensory and messy play experiences, as well as those that incorporate nature and natural elements.

Sensory learning is a part of a quality active learning environment for young children. Golden Grove Kindergarten is a place where learning through sensory play experiences is valued. Through sensory learning, children are provided with rich and authentic opportunities to engage with nature and natural world. We will provide opportunities for children to develop their skills in new learning, through experiencing graduated risks.

Please pack a set of spare clothes in your child's bag. In winter months, please pack two changes of clothes, a rain coat and gumboots, as we go out in the rain.

Please send your child in sensible clothing and footwear, enabling active participant in all kindergarten learning experiences, eg climbing, sand, painting, messy play, mud and much more!. Thongs and strappy sandals are not suitable as they are dangerous when climbing and restrict running. Special party dresses, party shoes or special clothes which are "not to get dirty" are not appropriate for learning at kindy.

To comply with our Skin Protection (SunSmart) & Hot Weather Policy children should wear skin-protective clothing (i.e. t-shirts with sleeve, not spaghetti straps or tank tops).

Library Bag

Children visit Golden Grove Primary School Library regularly and borrow books. Please ensure your child has a library bag (clearly labelled with your child's first name and surname) in their kindergarten bag at all times.

On Arrival

- Scan our QR code or complete the contact tracing sheet.
- Sanitize your hands and your child's hands
- Sign your child in. You will find the attendance list on the table next to the sink.
- Lunches go into the baskets under the verandah
- Snacks and drink bottles stay in your child's bag
- Encourage your child to put their bag into a locker (this promotes independence and your child will know where their bag is).
- Please bring your child into our building so that a staff member knows they are present.



On Departure

- Please sign your child out on departure.
- Child will be individually farewelled from our large group, to ensure the safety of each child.



Curriculum Program

Early Years Learning Framework

Our curriculum and learning program is informed by the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), DECD Preschool Literacy and Numeracy Indicators and the Child Protection curriculum document.

<http://deewr.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework>

Principles of Learning

The Principles of learning are our guiding principles in how we work with young children at Golden Grove Kindergarten.

- Relationships
- Children's Voice
- Construction of knowledge
- Engagement and involvement
- Enabling learning dispositions

Emergent Curriculum

Emergent curriculum encourages children to explore life through their own interests and passions. It is more "child led" or "child-based" learning than "teacher directed" learning. With the educators extending and building on children's learning towards important learning outcomes in the Early Years Learning Framework.

Links with Early Years Learning Framework

Principles

- Secure and restful reciprocal relationships

Practices

- Holistic approaches
- Responsiveness to children
- Learning through play
- Assessment for Learning

Inquiry-based Learning

Inquiry-based learning approaches to learning harness the spirit of investigation, creating an interesting, engaging and meaningful curriculum that uses children's interests and questions as starting points for effective learning.

Links with Early Years Learning Framework

Principles

- High expectations and equity

Practices

- Intentional teaching
- Learning Environments
- Assessment for Learning

Assessment of children's learning

Early Years Learning Framework LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of Identity
- Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners
- Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

Educators collect a range of information about children's learning including

- Observations
- Learning stories (group and individual)
- Artwork

Each child has a "Learning Journey Folder", this folder may include:

- Children's art/samples of writing
- Learning stories
- Observational photos
- Documentation of children's conversations

Please feel free to speak to any staff member at any time if you have any concerns about your child or if you would like to know how they are progressing at kindergarten. If you would like to have a longer conversation, please make an appointment.

You will receive a "Statement of Learning", at the end of your child's 4th term at kindy.

Families Voice

Each family is asked to complete a "Getting to know you" form about their child on enrolment, this helps educators to learn more about your child, their interests and passions outside of kindergarten to assist us with incorporating these into our curriculum. We invite you to share your feedback on any of our learning experiences, activities or events.

Communication

Newsletters and notices are an important means of communication between the kindergarten and parents/caregivers.

Kindy Pockets

Each child has their own named communication pocket on the wall in the small room, into which we put any notes, children's work, lost property, receipts etc. Please check your child's pocket daily.



Newsletters by email

We send regular newsletters, kindy updates and other information by email. It is instant, enables families to enjoy photographs in colour, it saves on paper and time putting notes in pockets.

Please ensure your current email address is on your child's enrolment form. If you do not receive any emails from us in the first few weeks of the year, please inform a staff member.

We also send SMS reminders when necessary ie for excursions, special events.

Parent Involvement

We welcome and appreciate parent involvement in our kindergarten. Children's learning involves a partnership between educators and families. Parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's learning. Parental involvement is connected with positive educational outcomes for children. Parents are encouraged to discuss with educators how they can be actively involved in their child's learning at kindergarten. Perhaps you have a skill or interest, e.g. cooking, gardening or music, that you may like to share with the children. You may enjoy spending time with children by reading a story or at the beginning of the session, joining in with special events, excursions, assisting with our Inquiry Learning focuses, volunteering to be on our laundry roster, or assisting with our End of Term clean ups.

Please let a staff member know if you are interested. Your contribution to and participation in our program is most welcome.

Those wishing to volunteer on regular basis will need to have a Working with Children Check, a volunteer induction session and sign a volunteer agreement form.

Governing Council

The Governing Council is made up of interested volunteer parents. The Governing Council is elected each year in February. The Governing Council provides input into policy and decision making, as well as financial management and fundraising, planning for facilities and resources, and the maintenance and improvement of building, grounds and equipment. Parents are encouraged to join the Council so they can participate in decisions which impact on their child's education. Meetings are held twice a term and are friendly and informal. Attending meetings is a good way to meet others in our community, while finding out what is happening at your child's kindergarten. Governing Council members will need to complete an online Responding to Abuse and Neglect (RAN) training and volunteer induction session.

Medications and Allergy Aware Policy

Golden Grove Kindergarten is an allergy aware centre. We are responsive to children's allergies and conduct the appropriate risk management procedures. Signs identifying the allergies (not the child) are displayed. **We are a nut and egg aware site.**

Please see Healthy food supply and Nutrition Policy for related information about allergy management.

Golden Grove Kindergarten Educators are trained in the administration of Asthma First Aid and Epipens prescribed for children with Anaphylactic conditions.

Families are required to supply a Health Care Plan if their child has asthma (Asthma Plan), allergies (Anaphylaxis plan) or any medical conditions, filled in by their doctor before their child begins kindergarten. Medication and instructions need to be kept at the kindergarten.

Medicines are stored up high in the kitchen, in a basket labelled with the child's name. No medication is to be kept in your child's kindy bag. Medical Care Plans are stored in a folder on the range hood (next to medication baskets) and with the child's enrolment form. Medical plans (inc anaphylaxis) are displayed on notice board in the kitchen.

Staff are unable to administer medication unless prescribed by a doctor.

Golden Grove Kindergarten Educators would **PREFER NOT** to administer other medications

- Educators are not trained in the administration of other medications
- Children who are prescribed antibiotics are often very unwell and require rest and recuperation at home.
- Children who are prescribed antibiotics may be carrying a contagious illness. As a part of our Infectious Diseases Policy, we are working to reduce the spread of infection through a range of measures.
- 3 daily dose antibiotics can be administered in the morning, after kindy (3pm) and at bedtime
- In a busy kindergarten, administration of medications can be overlooked. Or medications can be left in the kindergarten fridge and not taken home for the required night time dose.

In the case that there is no other strategy by which the child could be administered the medication, Educators will:

- ensure the parent has signed the administration of medication form
- Follow written advice from the child's Doctor
- Use the administration of medication form
- Wear gloves to protect themselves from contagious illness'

If your child is unwell or has an illness which maybe infectious, please keep them at home and advise the kindergarten. Please ensure that your emergency contact information is up to date as staff will use these contact numbers if your child becomes unwell while at kindergarten.

POLICIES

You will find copies of our centre's policies in your information pack or in our Policies Folder in our Parent Area. There are also summary versions of our centre's policies on display in our Notice board (under the verandah).

Parent Contribution (Fees)

Parent contribution is a \$130 per term.

You will receive an invoice in your child's note pocket at the beginning of each term. Please make payment on receiving your invoice. Payments can be made online by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

Fee payments can also be made through the Centre Pay system with payments deducted from your Centrelink Payments. Please see the Director or Finance Officer to set up the Centre Pay schedule for your contribution.

Government funding contributes towards, however does not cover basic costs of running a kindergarten. Parent contributions, fundraising, donations and writing for Grants assist in providing current and future children with a quality learning environment and curriculum program.

Other useful information

Support Services

The Education Department's Special Educators, Speech Pathologist, Social Workers and Psychologist work with the kindergarten staff and families to provide support for children with special needs.

Kindergarten Orientation Visits

We offer one Orientation visit in Term 4 for children and families to visit our kindergarten. It is an opportunity for the children (and families) to familiarise themselves with the learning environment and staff and to meet other children and families.

Literacy Kits

Literacy Kits are available for borrowing daily. Please fill out your details in the book provided. We ask that you disinfect your literacy kits before returning it. Please return literacy kits in the basket provided so staff can check and disinfect them before they can be borrowed again.



Parent Library

We have books on a variety of parenting topics which are available for borrowing.

Birthdays

We celebrate the children's birthdays by singing "Happy Birthday" and giving them a certificate and balloon. Please do not send cakes or lollies on birthdays as this conflicts with our Healthy Food policy and can cause problems for children with food allergies.

Lost Property

Please collect Lost Property from the baskets in the white cupboard just inside the main door. Please check regularly. All lost property is given to charity at the end of each term.

Car parking

Car parking is very limited. Maintaining movement in the car park at peak times is the most effective strategy to ensure that it is utilised effectively by as many families as possible. The Golden Grove Kindergarten Car park is only for families attending Golden Grove Kindergarten during that day. Alternatively, we encourage families to park and walk or if possible walk from home.

Please ensure that your behaviour within our kindergarten car park reflects the way in which you would expect others to behave towards you. Please:

- Avoid parking in the kindergarten car-park if you are intending to take time in school drop offs or pick ups.
- Do not park in the kindergarten entrance way (as this slows traffic exiting the car park and increases traffic congestion)
- Do not park in the Disabled Car Park without a permit

Please be aware that all the car-parking around and nearby our kindergarten and local schools is monitored by Police, with fines imposed.

Transition to School

If your child is going to attend Golden Grove Primary School, you will need to enrol your child. Please collect an enrolment form from the school's front office.

You will receive a letter from the school, informing you of the transition program.

Throughout the year, your child will be involved in a range of experiences at and with Golden Grove Primary School, as part of our transition program, including visits to Golden Grove PS playground, Library borrowing and participating in special events.

Other schools in our area also have transition programs, which all vary. Please ask your child's school if you would like more information regarding this.

Confidentiality

We respect all the information that you give us about your family or child. This will remain confidential at all times, as will any discussions we have with you.

To protect the children attending Golden Grove kindergarten, we ask that parents refrain from taking photographs, which may include children other than their own, as we want to ensure the privacy and safety of all children attending our kindergarten.

Contact Us

Please contact the kindergarten for any further information, or to discuss your child's learning, or any issues of concerns. We value conversations with parents as we work together to provide the best possible learning experiences and opportunities for your children.

Ph: 8289 2788

(There is an answering machine so you can leave a message any time if the centre is closed).

Email: dl.4695.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au