



Madison Park Kindergarten



Parent Handbook

At Madison Park Kindergarten we acknowledge and respect that we live, play and learn on the land of the Kaurna people and recognise their cultural and spiritual connection with the land, waters and community.



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Madison Park Kindergarten Staff



Jo
Director



Heather
Acting Director



Catherine
ECW



Emily
Teacher

At Madison Park Kindergarten our staff are committed and passionate about ensuring the best quality learning outcomes for all children.

All staff hold qualifications in Early Childhood Education and value lifelong learning.

We engage in annual Quality Improvement and Professional Development.

We believe building strong relationships with children and their families is key to positive learning outcomes.

We look forward to sharing your child's learning journey with you.



Shivali
ECW



Natalina
ECW



Hane
ECW



Madison Park Kindergarten Philosophy

At Madison Park Kindergarten we acknowledge and respect that we live, play and learn on the land of the Kaurua people and recognise their cultural and spiritual connection with the land, waters and community.

We work in collaboration with the community, families and children to support each child in reaching their potential. We recognise families as the first and primary educators of children and work in partnership to support each child. Each child's development is measured and planned for in a holistic approach. We program for engaging learning environments, learning activities and intentional teaching to meet each child's needs against the Early Years Learning Framework and Preschool Indicators of Numeracy and Literacy.

We strongly value children's active engagement and agency within the learning environment. We support this through purposeful play, nature play and STEM learning. We encourage children to ask questions and wonder why as they engage in their learning. Site based research has indicated that children's well-being, oral language development, respect and engagement has improved through these activities.

We recognise that children learn through play when they are highly engaged and flourish when provided multiple experiences to consolidate their learning. Play activities provide children the agency to explore and stretch their thinking, take risks and work collaboratively, as they are encouraged to initiate, lead and plan their learning. We provide a balanced amount of purposeful play with intentional teaching opportunities throughout the day.

Educators use open ended questions and intentional teaching to support literacy and numeracy development. Children are supported in their emotional and social development to build skills in sharing, collaborating and negotiating. We incorporate Interoception practices to support and develop learner well-being, self-regulation and learning engagement.

We maintain a collaborative culture by respecting and valuing each other's strengths and capabilities to support children's individual learning. We engage in professional development and collaborative reflective practice.

(Updated June, 2023)



Madison Park Kindergarten Key Information

Supporting you and your child at Kindy

We recognise starting Kindy can be difficult for everyone and separation anxiety can make this transition hard. We are here to help both you and your child through these times. There are a range of strategies we can use to best meet your needs. You are welcome to stay with your child as they settle and to call any time for an update.

Medication/Health Care/Continence

If your child has any medical or health care needs we have systems in place to ensure their wellbeing and safety is supported at all times. Please make sure any medications/including sunscreens are given to a staff member to be stored in accordance with Department regulations. A Health Care plan must be in place for any medical conditions.

Facebook/Photos

We regularly share information, stories and upcoming events on our closed Facebook Group. We have a private group set up, that is only accessible by current parents of the relevant year. Please do not share any of the content from this Facebook group in any other format. We will seek your consent for your child to be included in any social media images. We ask that you do not take photos of any other children while at Kindy.

Allergies/Cultural Awareness

We are an allergy aware Kindy, as such:

No Nut Products are to be consumed at Kindy, including peanuts, hazelnuts, and almonds. Products such as Nutella and Peanut Butter are best enjoyed at home and not brought into Kindy.

Children are reminded they are not allowed to share lunchbox food during the day.

Cooking experiences provided by the Kindy take into consideration allergies, Halal requirements and preferences.

An allergy management plan is needed for any child with a known allergy. Please talk to staff if you have any concerns.

Sickness/Keeping well at Kindy

If your child is unwell, they will need to stay home until they are feeling better. If your child develops signs of illness during the day, we will contact you to collect them. Children are asked to wash their hands on arrival and before eating times during the day.

Governing Council

Each year we invite parents to join the Governing Council. Joining the Governing Council will provide you with the opportunity to shape the direction of the Kindy and to provide valuable support during the year.



Madison Park

Kindergarten Key Information

What to pack for Kindy

- A piece of fruit for snack
- Healthy lunch packed in a lunchbox (consider a cool pack)
- Drink Bottle – filled with **water** only
- Bag
- Spare clothes (and a plastic bag to put dirty/wet clothes)

Please name all your items

Sun Safety

During Terms 1 & 4 and on sunny days children will be asked to wear a hat and wear sun safe clothing (that covers their shoulders). Sunscreen should be applied before coming to Kindy and is available if you forget. During sunny days children are also encourage to spend limited time in direct sunlight, with plenty of shaded areas to play under.

Arrival to Kindy

Session times start at **8.55am**. To ensure the safety of your child, if you arrive prior to 8.55am, you will need to stay until staff are in the yard.

Please go through the gates one at a time, and keep the gate shut at all times.

A staff member will sign your child in, please make sure we have seen you before leaving.

Clothing

We spent a lot of our time learning outdoors and ask that your child is dressed appropriately. Closed in shoes are the best all year round, especially during bike riding and other activities.

During summer we use our water feature and children often get their clothing wet while exploring and will need a change of clothes.

Some learning experiences can get messy, it's not uncommon for children to end the day with mud, paint, clay, sand, gloop, shaving foam or other items on their clothing – even when smocks and aprons are provided.

Dismissal / End of Day

Half day sessions finish at **11.55am**.

Full day sessions finish at **2.55pm**.

Learning takes place from 2.40pm – 2.55pm and children will not be released during this time. Please arrive earlier that 2.40pm if you need to take your child home early.

Please make sure your child is collected on time. Children can become distressed if left behind. If you are running late or someone else is collecting your child please let a staff member know.

We will not release your child to an unknown person. If you have approved someone we haven't met before we will ask them for ID.



Madison Park Kindergarten Sessions

We offer 15 hours of preschool each week over 2½ days.

Half day sessions run from 8.55am – 11.55am

Full day sessions run from 8.55am – 2.55pm

Please let staff know if you're running late

Fees: The cost for a full year of Kindy is **\$380** (\$95 per term). We encourage the payment of fees throughout the year to spread the cost. These fees charged help to pay for the resources used, toys, and improvements to the Kindy.

Fundraising: Throughout the year we run fundraising events, like Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls. These funds help to buy specific resources.

How to Pay?

We strongly recommend electronic payment of fees, by EFTPOS or direct bank transfer. Centrepay fortnightly payments can be organised through Centrelink, please ask staff for a form. Cash payments can be received by staff and placed into a secure envelope. Statements will be provided each term. Please talk to the Director if you are having difficulties with payments.

Account Name: Madison Park Kindergarten Inc

BSB: 065138 **Account number:** 00901437

Immunisation – No Jab – No Play

In line with the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*, children will not be able to enrol in or attend early childhood services unless all immunisation requirements are met (No Jab, No Play). We may ask you for updated records throughout the year. If you need help accessing your Immunisation History Statement through my.gov.au we can help. Please talk to a staff member.



Madison Park

Kindergarten Routines and Curriculum

We offer a balance approach of play-based indoor and outdoor learning experiences as well as structured intentional teaching activities. Our Preschool Quality Improvement Plan is regularly updated and is available on request.

Group times are intentional to teach targeted Literacy and Numeracy Skills including phonological awareness and concepts of print. Programs used include Heggerty and Pre-Lit

Shared meal times are an opportunity for oral language development and social learning.

Interoception skills are taught to support emotional regulation and understanding while we feel different ways. This supports children in finding appropriate ways to deal with their emotions.

Our curriculum is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework and the Department for Education Guidebooks for Literacy and Numeracy



The Child Protection Curriculum is taught to support children's development of the key areas:

- *The Right to be Safe
- *Relationships
- *Recognising and Reporting Abuse
- *Protective Strategies

Bush Kindy is provided to support learning in the outdoor environment. ***"Outdoor learning environments provide opportunity for students to engage in open-ended, diverse and meaningful learning experiences that are connected to nature, while also being connected to curriculum."*** – Nature Play SA

Madison Park Kindergarten provides support to children with additional needs and special rights. We have access to the following services through the Department for Education: Speech Pathologist, Psychologist, Social Worker and Special Educator. If you have concerns about your child's development please let us know.





More Questions?

Ready to Enrol?

If you have any more questions or would like to enrol your child, please get in touch with us to arrange a tour or drop in and say, "Hello".

If your child turns 4 before 1 May, they can begin Kindergarten at the beginning of that year.

If your child turns 4 before 1 November, they can begin Kindergarten in Term 3 (July).

Register your interest by 30 June, to secure a place in the Kindergarten for the following year.

Transitional playgroup is run during Terms 2 & 4

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