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Home



Find out more about our goals and our focus in our philosophy statement (PDF 101KB).

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

Volunteering

If you'd like to volunteer with us, we'd love to hear from you. See volunteering in schools, preschools and children's centres

(<https://www.decd.sa.gov.au/supporting-students/parent-engagement-education/volunteers/volunteering-schools-preschools-and-childrens-centres>) and have a chat to us about how you can get involved.

We invite you to join the governing council, which meets twice a term to make sure the preschool runs smoothly. 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.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we are on and pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people who are present today.

Contact us

Preschool director: Mrs Sharon Okmasich

Phone: (08) 8527 2240

Fax: (08) 8527 2028

Email: dl.0241.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Street address: 28 Owen Road Mallala SA 5502

Postal address: c/- Mallala Primary School 28 Owen Road Mallala SA 5502

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.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.45am to 3.00pm	8.45am to 3.00pm	–	8.45am to 3.00pm even weeks of school term	–

Fees

The parent contribution is \$45 per term. See our enrolment and fees (<https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/mallala-preschool/getting-started/enrolment-and-fees>) page for more information.

What to bring

Children need to bring these items each day:

- bag
- change of clothes
- drink bottle containing water
- healthy snack (packed separately to lunch)
- packed lunch
- library bag (library day is once a week).

Please write your child's name on all their belongings.

Children should wear old clothes with easy fastening, so they can get dirty and go to the toilet by themselves. Their shoes should be suitable for running and climbing.

What not to bring

Children should not bring these things:

- food containing nuts (some children have nut allergies that can be dangerous)
- unhealthy food or drink (lollies, chocolate, chips, fizzy drinks)
- toys from home.

Bus service

If there is enough room, your child can travel to and from preschool on the bus. Please contact Mallala Primary School for more information on routes and availability (PDF 81KB)
(https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/sites/g/files/net4016/f/mallala_preschool_bus.pdf).

Additional information

Please read our drop-off and pick-up procedure (PDF 72KB)
(https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/sites/g/files/net4016/f/mallala_preschool_drop_off_pick_up_procedures.pdf).

We use the Skoolbag app to communicate with you. It's easy to install
(<https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/2996669/SkoolBag%20Download%20Instructions.pdf?t=1528960782152>).

Occasional care

Occasional care is for children under school age who aren't in any other early childhood education and care programs, such as preschool, child care or family day care. It promotes young children's development by giving them access to high-quality early childhood education.

It may help parents to take part in a range of activities including non-work and casual work commitments.

Priority of access

The education department has a priority of access policy (<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parenting-and-child-care/your-childs-education/childcare-and-preschool/occasional-care>) to decide who can get into occasional care. This might mean that some families get more sessions than others.

Talk to us about enrolling in occasional care.

Times

Children generally can go to 1 session a week.

Children under 2 years

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
–	–	–	–	9.00am to 11.45am

Children over 2 years old

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
–	–	–	–	12.15pm to 3.00pm

Cost

This program costs \$5 per session and \$2.50 for siblings.

If you have an Australian Government Pensioner Concession or Health Care Card, the cost is \$1.50 per session and 75 cents for siblings.

What to bring

Children need to bring these items:

- bag
- hat
- change of clothes
- nappies if required
- drink bottle containing water
- piece of fruit to share (morning session)
- healthy snack (afternoon session).

Please write your child's name on all their belongings.

Playgroup

We have a playgroup in the playgroup building, for children from birth to 5 years and their parents and carers.

Activities include painting, sandpit play, songs, games, craft, etc. There is a small fee to cover insurance, craft material, etc. All families with young children are welcome to attend.

Times

Wednesdays during school term, 9.00am to 11.00am.

Cost

This program costs \$1 per child per session. Children under 1 are free.

What to bring

- Sun-safe hat
- Change of clothes
- Fruit to share
- Water bottle.

Happy Haven OSHC

Mallala out of school hours care (OSHC) runs before and after school and preschool, and also during school holidays and on pupil-free days.

Times

Monday to Friday during school term

6.30am to 8.30am

3.15pm to 6.00pm

Vacation care

7.00am to 6.00pm

Cost

This program costs \$5 and \$1.50 for concession card holders. If 2 children from 1 family attend, the cost is \$7.50 for both.

The cost is for each session and is not based on how long your child attends.

Additional information

To make a booking:

phone: 0424 974 995

email: [mallala \[at\] happyhaven.com.au](mailto:mallala@happyhaven.com.au)

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/mallala-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 term 3 about an orientation session. This will be a 1-hour session where you can ask questions.

Before they start preschool your child 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 \$180 per year. You can choose to pay the total amount at the beginning of the year or to pay instalments of \$45 each term

(<https://www.decd.sa.gov.au/teaching/south-australian-state-schools-term-dates>).

We offer other programs that may have additional costs

(<https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/mallala-preschool/getting-started/what-we-offer#mallalaprograms>).

When to pay

We will invoice you by week 5 of term 1 via your parent pocket.

Payments are due in week 10 of that term, unless you have already paid for the whole year.

Please contact us if you have difficulty paying.

How to pay

Cash or cheque

You can pay cash, cheque or EFTPOS at the Mallala Primary School.

EFT information

You can pay by direct deposit.

BSB: 105009

Account number: 098839540

Please put your child's name in the notes as the reference.

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>).

Reports and plans

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: | Meeting NQS |
| 3 | Physical environment: | Exceeding NQS |
| 4 | Staffing arrangements: | Meeting NQS |
| 5 | Relationships with children: | Exceeding NQS |
| 6 | Partnerships with families and communities: | Meeting NQS |
| 7 | Leadership and service management: | Exceeding NQS |

Rating for: Mallala Preschool

Rating issued: December 2014

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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 335KB)

(https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/mallala_preschool_qip.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 118KB)

(https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/sites/g/files/net4016/f/mallala_preschool-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/1734_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.



Mallala preschool

Mandatory child protection curriculum

It is a fundamental principle in Australian society that parents have the responsibility to protect their children and keep them safe. Australia supports a United Nations agreement that children are to be protected from all forms of abuse, exploitation and violence. Abuse may be sexual, physical and emotional. Australia has laws to prevent and respond to the abuse or neglect of children. In South Australia this law is called the Children's Protection Act. Under this Act people who work and volunteer in schools, Preschools and care settings are called mandated notifiers. This means that they must report child abuse or neglect if they have reasonable belief that a child is being harmed.

All people employed in the Department for Education receive regular training in this responsibility. When people report child abuse it is a confidential exchange of information with the Department of Families and Communities. Schools, Preschools and Child-Care Centres have the responsibility to protect children and keep them safe when they are under their care. Schools and Centres work with parents and other agencies to keep children safe.

Some of the ways they contribute to children's safety are through:

- Screening the people who want to work with children and young people
- Providing Educators and volunteers with expected standards of behaviour towards children and young people
- Providing supervision of children in the class, in the yard, and on school excursions and camps
- Implementing the school policies to ensure that children are treated in a just way and to respond to racial, sexual, verbal and physical harassment
- Educating about living safely and being healthy in Australia; this includes road safety, water safety, sun protection, hygiene and healthy eating
- Providing education about the dangers of drugs and alcohol
- Teaching children how to develop positive relationships and providing opportunities to build self esteem
- Teaching the Child Protection Curriculum.



The Child Protection curriculum teaches all children from a young age, in an age appropriate way, to:

- recognise abuse and tell a trusted adult about it
- understand what is appropriate and inappropriate touching
- understand ways of keeping themselves safe

A range of books, videos and classroom strategies are used in the curriculum.

Some strategies used with students are:

- Networks: a list of 4 or 5 trusted adults that the student can seek help from
- One-step removed: students are given 'What if ...' scenarios e.g. 'What if someone went home after school and found that he or she had lost their key and nobody was home?' These situations are discussed and a number of strategies that might help to keep the children safe are developed
- Persistence expectation: students are taught to continue to tell people or take action until they are safe
- Protective interrupting: teachers interrupt a student to prevent a disclosure in a group that may lead to further feelings of being unsafe - discussion time with these students is arranged in privacy after the lesson.
- Parents/caregivers are encouraged to talk to their children and the teachers about the Child Protection program.
- Educators have training to teach the Child Protection curriculum.



Mallala preschool

Changing children

We recognise that all children are individuals and develop and gain skills at their own pace. Consequently, some children may not be able to access our toilets successfully or independently when they first commence attending preschool. there may be times when children get wet whilst engaging in water play/paint/sand play activities at preschool and need to be changed.

Children who need to be changed at preschool

- The child will be taken to semi private area of bathroom i.e. in toilet cubicle with door open.
- Educators will encourage child to remove their own clothing, offering verbal instructions and assistance as required, wearing gloves.
- Provide wipes/toilet paper to child to clean self if necessary.
- Place wet/soiled clothing in bag and seal.
- Provide dry clothes (own spare clothes from child's bag) and encourage child to dress self, offering verbal instructions and assistance as required. Both Educators and child will wash hands.
- Educator records change of clothes and provides a note in pigeon holes with explanation for parents.

If a child is wetting regularly or needs a greater amount of assistance a Toileting Plan or Continence Plan (if the child is still in nappies) will be devised with the parents and a health professional. These plans will outline in more detail exactly what personal care functions Preschool Educators will perform and how frequently.



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Mallala preschool

Helping children settle

Every child reacts differently to new situations. You can help your child settle into preschool by:

- Planning with your child how you will say goodbye.
- Establishing a routine for leaving your child, such as arrive at Preschool, encourage your child to put his/her bag away, write their name, greet the teacher, do a puzzle or read a story, then say goodbye and leave.
- Using the same routine daily allows your child to know when you will be leaving, making the separation easier to accept.
- If problems emerge talk to the Preschool Educators
- If a child has difficulty separating from their parent/carer the following strategies will be employed to ensure positive, caring and respectful relationships are developed and maintained
- An Educator will be available as the parent/carer prepares to say goodbye
- Educators will calmly talk to the child, offer comfort, a quiet place to go to together, offer a special story, toy or activity, or other diversion or distraction tactic to help the child calm
- The Educator will remain with the child until they calm down, stop crying and are ready to join other activities. Many children settle after a few minutes
- Educators will ask the child if it is OK to hold their hand, sit on the adult's lap or have a hug to help them settle
- We will only physically restrain or lift and carry a child if the child's or other children's safety is at risk
- Parents are welcome to ring the Preschool during the session to find out how their child settled

Behaviour management

Our preschool environment is safe and nurturing, with an emphasis on positive optimistic language and co-operative, non-aggressive behaviour. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour, well-being and safety. They are empowered through 'restorative practice techniques' which provide strategies to develop an understanding of the situation and stand up for themselves in a way which does not hurt others. They are encouraged to 'use their words' and say for example, "Stop (behaviour). I don't like it when you (behaviour)." Children are also encouraged to look at and develop an understanding of results of their actions, so they can see consequences of their behaviour whether physical, verbal or emotional. The children are involved in developing rules and are given



Mallala Primary School

28 Owen Road, Mallala SA 5502
Phone 08 8527 2240
Fax 08 8527 2028

opportunities to practise them. More details can be found in our behaviour management policy.



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Mallala preschool

Assessment and reporting

On enrolment parents are asked to complete a questionnaire regarding their child's strengths and interests and areas that need further development.

This information is used along with Educator observations of children's play, interactions and skills to develop Individual Learning Plans and for programme planning. Samples of children's work and photos are collected in a folder to show 'distance travelled' in learning. Throughout the child's time at Preschool, information collected will be discussed with parents/ carers. An Assessment of learning from the child's year of Preschool is written and copies given to parents and the school. Assessment of the learning environment is accomplished by using the tools and strategies in the Respect Reflect Relate document. This observation and evaluative tool is used by Educators in order to promote wellbeing, a strong sense of connection, optimism and engagement in learning. Please feel free to look at the Programme folder on the bench near the entrance to see the learning areas and activities we are using with the children. Our Preschool promotes each child's self-esteem, social skills and skills for life. Our program is heavily planned around literacy, particularly oral literacy. Each day we have a specific group time revolving around a book, and activities matched to promote conversation, thinking, rhyme, asking questions, pretending, and expressing curiosity.



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Accidents/Medication/Illness

Minor Accidents

We will endeavour to provide notice of any First Aid administered to your child during the day via a slip in your pigeon hole asking you to approach educators to sign the injury or accident form.

Please sign and return any forms for filing. If it has been a head injury, educators will also give you a courtesy call and please monitor your child at night in case of delayed concussion.

Major injuries

If your child's injury is of a major concern we will endeavour to contact you via phone ASAP. Our first concern will be to administer first aid and if necessary call 000 for an ambulance.

Illness

If your child falls ill during a Preschool day, we will endeavour to inform you ASAP so they can get home as soon as possible.

Asthma

All children needing an Asthma puffer require an updated Asthma Plan from the Doctor. We also require a Puffer and Spacer to stay at the Preschool with the child's name on the prescription.

Notifiable Communicable Diseases/ Viruses

There are many diseases or virus that go around including Lice, measles, whooping Cough, Gastro/ Diarrhoea etc. Could you please keep your child home if they seem unwell and let us know of the illness as we are obligated to inform all families of many of these illnesses or conditions. It is always good to have a heads up.

Other Medications

If your child requires medication during a Preschool day, please see a staff member, as there are forms that need to be completed and signed to give permission for administration. We will not give any medicines unless prescribed by a doctor and have an accompanying letter. Most times, when a medication is required three times per day, this can be administered before Preschool, after preschool and before bed.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Mallala preschool

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Preschool Bus Service

Mallala Primary School provides a bus for the Preschool children providing there is room. You may apply to the Mallala Primary School to gain permission to travel to Preschool on the school bus.

Educators will sign your child in and out for the day if on the bus. Educators will assume the child is going on the bus unless we have some communication from you. Please be aware that communication directly from your child is not satisfactory.

Please note on extreme weather days the buses may not run even though the Preschool may remain open. All attempts will be made to notify you of any changes.



Mallala Primary School

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Drop off/pick up procedures

When arriving with your child at Preschool, please escort your child INSIDE the building, sign them in and ensure that your child has been greeted by an educator.

An educator will say goodbye to your child when you arrive to collect them. Please be on time so that your child does not worry. In the interests of safety, when collecting your child, always ensure that an educator knows that you are taking your child, sign your child out and assist your child to collect their belongings, including any items they may have made during the session. Please remember your child can only be picked up by an authorised adult. Please be aware that educators will not release your child to anyone under the age of 18.

Be aware as you leave through the gate that only the child in your care passes through with you. If for any reason you are unable to collect your child on time (3:00pm) please contact the school on 8527 2240.

If your child has not been picked up after a session the procedure for educators will be.

1. Wait 15 minutes then phone call to parents/Carers. If No Response
2. Phone call to emergency contacts. If No Response
3. Staff will call the Police. (Police will possibly take child into care until parents are located).

If you need to collect your child before 3:00pm for any reason, in order to ensure their safety in the event of an emergency, we require a parent or carer to sign them out at the school front office.



MALLALA PRESCHOOL



General information



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Mallala Preschool Contact Details

Phone: (08) 8527 2240

Email: dl.0241.info@schools.sa.edu.au

28 Owen Road,
MALLALA

Welcome

We welcome you and your child to our centre. We hope your time with us will be enjoyable and rewarding. We look forward to getting to know you and your child! Early Childhood Educators recognise and value parents as their child's most important Educators - no one knows more about your child than you do! Our role is to provide an extension of your care and education.

Centre management

Mallala Preschool is a school-based preschool. Management responsibilities lie with the nominated supervisor and school principal, Sharon Okmasich.

The Mallala Primary School Governing Council oversees the broad direction of the Preschool and assists with fundraising and maintenance through working bees. A parent representative from the preschool is elected to the governing council each year.

Parents are welcome to share ideas and concerns with educators or members of the governing council. Governing council meetings are held twice a term. These meetings usually occur at 7pm on Tuesdays in weeks 3 and 8.

Please note that only governing council members can attend these meetings unless a vote is held before the meeting to allow a visitor.

Why is preschool important for your child?

Preschool is a stepping stone from the home environment before the child starts school and provides the child with a new sense of independence. Educators at Mallala Preschool aim to provide a happy, warm and secure environment, rich in many play and learning activities which will stimulate and nurture each child's social, emotional, creative, physical and intellectual development.

In a happy, secure preschool environment, children have additional opportunities to:

- Be independent
- Develop positive self esteem
- Communicate with other children and adults
- Separate from parents
- Follow instructions
- Ask for help
- Understand and express needs, feelings and ideas
- Share adult attention

- TAKE turns and share
- Listen for longer periods- group time
- Concentrate for longer periods
- Remember and follow rules and routines
- Develop an appreciation of expressive arts- music, singing, drama, etc
- Observe, question, reason and begin to organise knowledge and solve problems
- Extend their interest, knowledge and understanding of basic concepts (colour, shape, etc) numbers, words and letters through relevant and meaningful activities
- Develop coordination skills
- Play cooperatively
- Learn to accept rules happily, and to handle feelings of hostility and aggression in a positive manner
- Solve problems peacefully
- Work alone and in a group
- Make friends
- Be eager for new experiences
- Be happy, have fun and develop a sense of humour
- Listen and take turns to talk
- Develop speech and language skills
- Respect other people-their ideas, their feelings and their property
- Develop an awareness of and respect for the environment
- Develop an awareness and understanding of other cultures

Things you can do to help your child

- Loving, giving reassurance and listening to your child
- Reading to and with your child
- Talking with your child
- Allowing them to use pencils, crayons, chalk, scissors, glue and paint
- Having scrap paper readily available
- Encouraging your child to dress themselves, to cope with toileting and nose wiping
- Showing positive interest in the things your child does
- Showing an interest in Mallala Preschool and helping in any way you are able.

Communication with parents

This is done in a variety of ways:

- Newsletters are printed regularly and placed in pigeon holes.
- Communication through the Skoolbag phone app
- Children's Learning Journey Folders.
- Notices are written on the preschool white board on the outside of the building.
- Talking to the educators – approach educators at drop off or pick up or make an appointment to meet at another time.
- Our program is displayed near the sign-in folder with space for parents and families to provide feedback and ideas.

You are welcome at the centre and can help by:

- Contributing help at end of term clean-up.
- Participating in fundraising activities or special events/ excursions.
- Maintenance tasks, which are sometimes done at a working bee, or at another time.
- Donating goods for playdough/ tissues/ making materials (eg boxes, scrap material, ribbon etc).

Absences from preschool

To enable each child to gain maximum benefit from participation and to ensure continuity of learning, regular attendance is essential. the preschool needs to be advised if a child is unable to attend. This can be done by phoning the school or through the skoolbag app. infections can be prevented from spreading if unwell children are kept home. Please inform educators of contagious diseases, so that notification can be made to all families to be aware of symptoms. If your child is absent from preschool due to appointments, vacation, etc., please inform educators.



Philosophy

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) (DEEWR, 2009) states that:

*'We see children's lives as characterised by **belonging**, **being** and **becoming**. From before birth children are connected to family, community, culture and place. Their earliest development and learning takes place through these relationships, particularly within families, who are children's first and most influential educators. As children participate in everyday life, they develop interests and construct their own identities and understandings of the world.'*

We encourage their sense of **Belonging** by building safe, warm and supportive relationships between educators and children and also educators and families. We aim to structure a learning environment that invites the children's participation and ownership.

The relationships we form with families, school and the community also enhance the sense of **Belonging**.

We take time to get to know both children and their families. We value all children's experiences and ways of **Being** by seeking information from their families and planning individual learning experiences around these interests.

Children are encouraged to investigate other ways of **Being** through their play and cultural experiences. The children in our care are individual and unique and emphasis is placed on self esteem, emotional wellbeing, communication, socialization, collaboration and self-help skills. Children are given the opportunity on a daily basis to participate in a period of relaxation.

We recognise and celebrate the children's **Becoming** with a focus on building on what they already bring with them to preschool.

We use resources such as 'Reflect, Respect, Relate' to support their **Becoming** more self aware, more socially aware, more literate and more numerate, **Becoming** in the long-term, confident, eager, lifelong learners.



Mallala Pre-School SunSmart Policy

This policy applies to all school events on and off the site.

Rationale

A balance of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first ten years of life is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles and for general health.

Objectives

This SunSmart policy has been developed to:

- encourage children and staff to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above
- work towards a safe outdoor environment that provides shade for children and staff at appropriate times
- ensure all children and staff have some UV radiation exposure for vitamin D
- assist children to be responsible for their own sun protection
- ensure families and new staff are informed of the centre's SunSmart Policy.

Legislation

This policy relates to the following National Law and Regulations:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010:*
 - Section 167 – Protection from harm and hazards
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:*
 - Regulation 100 – Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
 - Regulation 113 – Outdoor space—natural environment
 - Regulation 114 – Outdoor space—shade
 - Regulation 168: Policies and procedures (2)(a)(ii)—sun protection

National Quality Standards

All of the following SunSmart procedures link to:

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety.

There are also links to:

Quality area 1: Educational program and practice

Quality area 3: Physical environment

Quality area 5: Relationships with children

Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

Quality area 7: Leadership and service management

Procedures

Staff are encouraged to access the SunSmart UV Alert at www.bom.gov.au/sa/uv to find out daily local sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy.

We use a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities during terms 1, 3 and 4 (August until the end of April) and whenever UV radiation levels reach 3 and above at other times. extra care is taken during the peak UV radiation times and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these time where possible

1. Clothing

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety

When outside all children are required to wear loose fitting clothing that cover as much skin as possible. Clothing made from cool, closely woven fabric is recommended. Tops with elbow length sleeves, collars and knee length or longer style shorts and skirts are best. If a child is wearing a singlet top or dress they wear a t-shirt/shirt over the top before going outdoors.

2. Sunscreen

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety

- SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum and water resistant sunscreen is available for staff and children's use
- sunscreen is applied at least twenty minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors
- with parental consent, children with naturally very dark skin are not required to wear sunscreen to help with vitamin D requirements
- children, once old enough, are encouraged to apply their own sunscreen under the supervision of staff



3. Hats

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety

All children are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, i.e. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats. Baseball or peak caps are not considered a suitable alternative.

4. Shade

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety

Quality area 3: Physical environment

- a shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade
- management makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the outdoor area
- the availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities
- children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside
- children who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

5. Sunglasses [optional]

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety

Children and staff are encouraged to wear close fitting, wraparound sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard AS/NZS 1067:2003 (Sunglasses: lens category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

6. Babies

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety

Our SunSmart practices consider the special needs of infants. All babies under twelve months are not exposed to the direct sun when UV radiation levels are 3 and above.

Infants should be protected by using shade, clothing and hats. Sunscreen should be applied to small areas of exposed skin not protected by clothing or hats.

7. Enrolment and information for families

Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

When enrolling their child, families are:

- informed of the centre's SunSmart policy
- asked to provide a suitable hat for their child
- asked to provide their child with suitable

outdoor clothing that is cool and covers as much skin as possible (i.e. covering the shoulders, chest, upper arms and legs)

- asked to provide SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for their child
- families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, shade, sung

8. Staff WHS and role modelling

Quality area 5: Relationships with children

As part of WHS UV risk controls and role modelling, when the UV radiation is 3 and above, staff:

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
- apply SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible.

9. Education

Quality area 1: Educational program and practice

Quality area 5: Relationships with children

Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

- sun protection and vitamin D are incorporated into the learning and development program
- the SunSmart policy is reinforced through staff and children's activities and displays
- staff and families are provided with information on sun protection and vitamin D through family newsletters, noticeboards and the centre's website.

10. Policy review

Quality area 7: Leadership and service management

Management and staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy and revise the policy when required (at least once every three years).

Date of next Policy review: 19/6/2018

