



Renown Park
Children's Centre
for Early Childhood
Development and Parenting



Preschool Handbook



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Mission statement

Inspired Learners, Empowered Families, Connected Communities.

Philosophy statement

Renown Park Children's Centre has a rich history of servicing our community through engaging and innovative preschool programs for over 40 years. We strive to be a welcoming Centre that is responsive to the needs of our community. Our core values are relationships, inclusion and learning for all.

We are committed to high educational and social outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. We celebrate, and acknowledge the cultural diversity of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and we respect Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the land in which we live and meet. We strive to bring an Aboriginal perspective across the curriculum and work alongside Aboriginal families to have authentic cultural and meaningful experiences for children. We acknowledge and celebrate their connection to land throughout the day with our welcome to country, and use the words of Trent Hill (Aboriginal Educator) to connect children to our land "taking care of the land because the land takes care of us". Through creating strong relationship with families and working in partnership, educators are able to build their understandings of culturally responsive practices and create a safe and welcoming environment where children can shine.

Relationships

Relationships are at the heart of everything we do and it is through these connections that we provide an inclusive and supportive place for our community. Children are connected through our relationships, our community and connections to our welcoming spaces. Through our positive, respectful relationships, children and families develop a sense of belonging, and they become part of our learning community.



Inclusion



We aim to create a place where every family feels a strong sense of belonging. We welcome, value and embrace all cultures, nationalities and abilities. We understand that there are many ways children share what they know, can do and understand and we are receptive to these and to the many ways they demonstrate this learning. We highlight children's strengths and understand that they learn best through their strengths and interests. We teach children ways to include each other and accept differences between each other to ensure successful learning outcomes for all children. There is a place for all children and all families in our centre.

Learning for all

We understand that learning is holistic. We support children to develop socially, emotionally, ethically and academically through play. Play is the way that children learn. Play supports thinking and builds skills for life-long learning. Educators support children in play by watching and listening, questioning, challenging thinking and use this information to discuss and plan for further development and to extend children's learning. We see learning as a collaborative process between children, families and communities and we work together as a team to support and develop the next individual steps for each child. We value children's individual strengths, abilities and thinking. We plan opportunities for children to make choices in their learning, to experiment and share ideas with others and take on leadership roles. We encourage children to work together, to listen to others' ideas, to communicate their ideas.

We see learning as a lifelong process and our educators are committed to continuous improvement connected to current research.



Renown Park Children's Centre

Our wonderful educators welcome you to Renown Park Children's Centre for Early Childhood Development and Parenting.

Preschool Session Times- 2023

Children who turn 4 on or before the 30th of April start preschool at the beginning of that year and are entitled to 15 hours of preschool per week.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children in care of the Guardianship of the Chief Executive are able to begin preschool after their 3rd birthday. They are entitled to 12 hours of preschool per week until their eligible year of preschool when they access 15 hours.

Group A:

Monday and Tuesday 8:30am-3:10pm each week

And Wednesdays (even weeks) 8.30am-11.50am

Group B:

Thursday and Friday 8:30-3:10 each week

and Wednesdays (even weeks) 8.30am-11.50am

If you require before or after school care, children are eligible to attend Brompton Primary School Out of Hours School Care from the age of 4. Please contact Pana on 8340 4486 to discuss further.

Term Dates- 2023

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
30 January- 14 April	1 May- 7 July	24 July- 29 September	16 October- 15 December

Fees

Fees are charged each term to cover operating costs such as cleaning and utility bills and to ensure we have high quality resources for your child.

Our fees are:

\$140 per term

Or \$560 per year

Or \$14 per week

Paying Fees

Invoices are collected from the front desk at the beginning of each term. Payment is requested by week 4.

Payments can be made in a number of ways:

- EFTPOS at reception
- Direct Debit
- Returning the correct money in an envelope into our fees box at reception. We do not keep cash on site, so please bring correct money
- Centrepay- is a voluntary bill-paying service that is free for Centrelink customers.

Healthy Food and nutrition policy

We promote safe, healthy eating habits in line with the Right Bite Healthy Food and Drink Supply Strategy for South Australian Schools and Preschools. Early childhood is an important time for establishing lifelong, healthy eating habits and can benefit children by; maximising growth, development, activity levels and good health and minimising the risk of diet related diseases later in life. Good nutrition contributes to good health and wellbeing which is vital for positive engagement in learning activities.

Our centre is committed to sustainability and reducing our waste. We encourage families to send along healthy non packaged foods to support this policy and children's wellbeing.



Nut Aware

We are a nut aware centre. We sometimes have children attending our centre with nut allergies and these can be life threatening.

To keep everyone safe, when someone enrolls that has an allergy, we will let families know and will make it clear foods that will not be able to be sent to preschool.

For more detailed information, please see our Food and Nutrition Policy on our web site and in our policies folder.

Birthday Celebrations

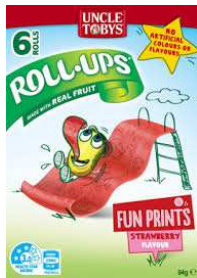
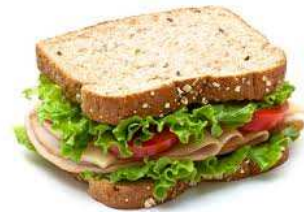
At our centre we acknowledge birthday celebrations with group singing and lighting candles on a pretend cake.

Due to our healthy food policy, children are unable to bring along cake or sweets for their birthdays.

Families are welcome to provide a fruit or vegetable platter for children to share in celebration of their child's birthday if they wish.

Behaviour Support Policy

At Renown Park Preschool we support children's behaviour through explicit teaching, modelling and positive reinforcement. We aim to provide an enriching environment and support children to resolve conflicts through using restorative practices techniques. For more detailed information, please see our restorative practices booklet and our Behaviour Code.



What to bring each day:

1. Backpack

2. A change of clothes, socks and underwear



3. Water bottle (no juice, fruit boxes, flavored milk, or cordial)



4. A healthy morning snack in a container e.g. vegetables or fruit (no packaging please)



5. A healthy lunch box (we recommend placing a cold ice pack inside)



Arriving at preschool

The preschool day starts at 8:30 and finishes at 3:10. You are welcome to drop off any time after 8:30 and we kindly ask you to be at the centre ready to pick up before 3:10.

Please sign your child in and out each day. This is a requirement of the National Quality Standards.



- Pick up any notices next to the sign in sheets with your child's name on them
- Share any important information about your child with an educator

Leaving your child

Saying goodbye can be difficult for children coming into a new environment. It is really important to say goodbye to your child even though this can make them upset for a short time. Children feel secure when they know who is there for them.

Our role is to develop strong relationships with children and families so they feel safe and secure at our centre. This process is different for each child and we are happy to support families in different ways to reflect this. Please see an educator if you need support in this process.

Collecting your child

We ensure that all children are collected by responsible adults, either yourself or an adult you have nominated on your enrolment form.

Sun Safety

All children are provided with a bucket hat to wear while they are at preschool. Children need to wear a hat and sunscreen when outdoors on days when the UV is over 3.



Children can also choose to wear sunglasses while outside to protect their eyes.

Children's clothing needs to cover their shoulders, and neck. Children wearing singlets and strappy tops/dresses will need to wear a t-shirt underneath to protect their skin.



PROTECT YOURSELF IN FIVE WAYS FROM SKIN CANCER

Please apply sunscreen to your child each morning and educators will support your child to re-apply at lunch time.

What to wear

Preschool play can be messy. As children explore, investigate and collaborate they will climb, paint, hammer, glue, dig and more! Dirty clothes show a productive day of learning. Please send along clothes that are comfortable and easily washable.



Please do not send your child to preschool in thongs, slippers or slip on shoes as they can be dangerous when climbing and running.



Toys

Children have many special toys but we encourage them to not bring them in to our centre. Special toys can easily be lost or broken and cause conflict with other children.

If your child would like to share something special such as a natural object, a photo or other special item, please see our educators so they can keep it safe during the day.



Every day counts

Children who attend preschool regularly have opportunities to:

Regular attendance supports your child's participation in the education program so they feel part of the group and teachers can plan to support their learning.

Remember, always phone the preschool first thing in the morning if your child will be away.

If you are having difficulty getting your child to preschool, talk to the preschool staff for help.

By working together we can support the regular attendance of your child and help set up good learning habits for life.



Develop friendships

Joining in with groups, playing together, negotiating with other children, co-operating and having fun



Learn new things

Developing confidence, sharing ideas, solving problems and being inquisitive



Build on what they have learnt

Practise and refining new skills, extending their communication skills, thinking and knowledge



Follow routines

Developing independence, taking care of belongings, following instructions, separation from parents/carers, organising their time

To help your child gain the most from their time at preschool it is important they attend each session.

Working Together

Our centre relies on families supporting us. We cannot provide the services for our community without your help and support. Some of the ways you can help include:

- Spending time reading stories with children
- Share skills from your job or interests/hobbies you have
- Cooking and sharing your culture, including celebrations
- Covering and cataloging books
- Gardening, sweeping, raking, planting, weeding, watering the garden
- Cutting up resources like material, bubble wrap and paper for making
- Cleaning in the preschool
- Fundraising for the centre

You all have such special talents and we would love to have each of you enrich the program we offer by having you as part of our team.

If you are able to provide regular help in the garden we will offer reduced preschool fees.

Parent Committee

Each year we ask parents to join the parent committee and be a part of the decision making and future direction of our centre. Our Annual General meeting is held in February and we welcome new members each year. We catch up twice per term during the day on a weekday that suits families, with roles including:

- Chair- they keep us on track and make sure everyone has a say and keep our discussions within the time we have allocated
- Secretary- keeps notes on our discussions
- Treasurer- presents the finance documents and helps explain the budget and where our money is being spent based on our site goals
- General members- share their ideas and thoughts

It is a great chance to meet other parents, and hear about and contribute to what is happening at our centre.

Please join! We would love you to be part of shaping our future!

Health

It is important that children attend preschool when they are well. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home. If they become unwell at preschool we will contact you to collect your child.

Do not send your child if they have any of the following:



 Government of South Australia
SA Health

Childcare and school exclusion periods



Chickenpox

Until all blisters have dried (usually 5 days)



Common cold

A person with a cold should stay home until he or she feels well



Conjunctivitis

Until discharge from eyes has stopped (unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis)



Diarrhoea

Until no diarrhoea for 24 hours



Hand foot and mouth disease

Until all blisters are dry



Head lice

Until appropriate treatment has commenced



Influenza

Until well (usually 7-10 days for children)



Childcare and school exclusion periods



Viral gastroenteritis

Until no diarrhoea for 24 hours



Whooping cough

Until 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment, or for 21 days from the start of any cough



Worms

If diarrhoea present, exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours



Measles

Until 4 days after the onset of the rash



Scabies

Until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced



School sores (impetigo)

Until appropriate treatment has commenced

Infectious Diseases

If your child contracts an infectious disease such as chicken pox, or conjunctivitis, please notify the centre. We will notify families to look out for the signs and symptoms and be aware of the exclusion period to stop the spread of disease. Children who are not vaccinated or families who have not given us an up to date copy of their child's vaccination will be excluded during outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.