



We welcome you to **Somerton Park Kindergarten** and we trust that you will enjoy your kindergarten experience with us.

Your educators are:

Miss Emily Wilkins:	Preschool Director	Helen Bruijn:	Early Childhood Worker
Paul Ellmers:	Teacher	Kellianne Curtiss:	Early Childhood Worker
Emily Hurrell:	Teacher	Francie Bourke:	Administration Officer

Term Dates

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2024	29 Jan – 12 Apr	29 Apr – 5 Jul	22 Jul – 27 Sep	14 Oct – 13 Dec
2025	28 Jan – 11 Apr	28 Apr – 4 Jul	21 Jul – 26 Sep	13 Oct – 12 Dec

Kindergarten

Priority for enrolment is given to children who's closest Kindergarten is Somerton Park.

From 2023, there will be two major intakes for children enrolling in preschools, intake 1 for children starting at the beginning of the year (term 1), and intake 2 for children starting mid-year (term 3). Children that start in the mid-year intake will commence reception mid-year 2024 and will undertake 6 terms of reception.

From 2023 children who turn 4 years old:

- before 1 May continue to start preschool at the beginning of the year
- from 1 May to 31 October start preschool through the mid-year intake at the start of term 3 of that year
- after 31 October start preschool at the beginning of the following year.

Children will undertake 4 terms (1 year) of preschool, regardless of whether they start at the beginning of the year, or through a mid-year intake.

*All kindergartens now require proof of date of birth at the time of enrolment either with a current passport, birth certificate or official Centre link documentation with the child's name and date of birth and immunisation records.

Attendance schedule

- Group A – Monday, Tuesday 8:15am to 2:45pm, and
Friday 8:15am -12:15pm (odd weeks in Term 1, even weeks Term 2,3 and 4)
- Group B – Wednesday, Thursday 8:15am to 2:45pm and
Friday 8:15am – 12:15pm (even weeks in Term 1, odd weeks Term 2,3 and 4)

Kindergarten fees are currently \$200.00 per term and will be reviewed by governing council in November and maybe increased.

Payment can be made by placing cash into a named envelope into the cash box outside of the Directors office, or via the bank details below (please include your child's name)

Somerton Park Kindergarten BSB 065 108 Account 00902850

Holdfast Partnership

Somerton Park Kindergarten is a member of the Holdfast partnership.
This includes 7 kindergartens, 5 schools and the secondary school. We meet twice a term as a group to discuss issues relevant to all of us. Our focus is educating for the 21st century and numeracy and literacy.

Transition to Kindy

The transition from home to kindy is a milestone for both children and families. Families, like children, may experience some anxieties during this time. Each morning when children arrive at kindy, they know that they are going to be saying goodbye to their mum or dad, or someone in their family that they are close to. Each child has their unique way of showing how they feel about this.

Transitioning to kindy is not a single event, rather it happens over time. During this time educators will form relationships with families and children and seek guidance from you so we can best understand your child and their individual needs.

On your way to kindy in the mornings you can talk to your child about what educators they will see when they arrive. This simple act provides predictability and a place for your child to begin their day. Educators will warmly greet you and your child as you arrive. Some children need time before they can say a full hello. Please be reassured that you need not worry if your child is not ready to say hello yet, they always do later.

The beginning of the day can also include a 'warming-up' time. Educators will help children to link up and make friends. The educators practice noticing and naming or confirming what each child does. They also 'lift up' one child's ideas to the other children. When educators notice and name or confirm what each child does this helps to develop children's confidence and trust.

If you do have concerns about how your child will transition into kindy, please come, and speak with an educator, so we can provide guidance and strategies to support you.



Last updated November 2023

Communication

There are many ways that we communicate with families. We ask that you regularly check the communication pockets under the veranda with your child's name on it. We use the whiteboard next to these pockets to highlight messages and the days happenings. Emails are the main source of communication, to inform of kindy news, up and coming events, along with the newsletter. Families are invited to meet with an educator at any time though out the year to discuss their child's learning at kindy. This can be done formally through the child, family, educator conversations or informally at drop off and pick up times. Alternatively, you can request a time with an educator during the kindy session.



As you arrive

As you arrive at kindergarten we ask that you "sign in" your child in the folder provided, including the time of arrival. The children also get to "sign in" giving them an opportunity to be familiar with and practice writing their names.

Dropping off and collecting your child

Please understand that the educators do need time to set up before sessions and often have meetings to attend at the end of the day and this is made difficult if parents are early or late.

Please ring us if you are late so that we can reassure your child.

Clothing

Please ensure your children are dressed comfortably and in clothes which will survive the odd spills of paint, glue etc.

We ask that parents support the policies of the centre by:

- Ensure children have a change of clothes in case of accidents.
- Children want to be independent. Please help your child by dressing them in clothes which are quick and easy to remove when they need the toilet- please avoid tricky buckles/belts/overalls etc.
- Providing sandals or closed shoes - no thongs or crocs please as they do not stay on children's feet easily and are dangerous when climbing and running.
- Providing a sun smart hat- (legionnaires, bucket or wide brim/no caps) every day. The children are required to wear hats when the UV reading is above 3.
- A jacket or a jumper needs to be in your child's bag each day as our shady trees are very cooling even on warm days.
- Tops or dresses with short sleeves in the summer for the girls - **no shoe string straps or singlets** as they provide no protection against the sun
- Named hats, lunch boxes (named on the top please) drink bottles, bags and shoes.

The lost property is on the veranda.

We have clothing available for purchase online. Polo shirts, windcheaters and hats all feature the Kindergarten logo. Please use the following link to view and order from our range.

<https://eduthreads.com.au/collections/somerton-park-kindergarten>

Uniforms now
available online!
[www.eduthreads.com.au](https://eduthreads.com.au)

eduTHREADS
EASY ORDERING - OPEN 7 DAY DELIVERY - FREE AND FAST EXCHANGE
*in shops over \$60 or call 08 8499 8888

Borrowing books

We have a variety of great books which are available for loan under the veranda.

Developing literacy skills at Somerton Park Kindergarten is a very important part of our curriculum.

We know how important reading to children is - it is one of the most important factors in children developing a love of language and consequently a desire to read and write.

A folder is available for recording book loans. Please take care of our books and return them within a week as other children will be waiting to borrow them.

Please report any damage or loss to the educators.



Lunch, Snacks and Drinks

Each child needs to bring to kindergarten a bottle of **water** for drinking. Please ensure that your child can manage opening and closing the bottle.

We ask that parents support our **healthy food policy** by sending nutritious food to kindergarten.

We have fruit and vegetable time at kindergarten in the morning and the afternoon so please send two pieces of fruit, vegetables or cheese and crackers. We sit together as a group and eat our fruit and vegetables after we have washed our hands.



At lunch time we sit together. The children are encouraged to assist with the routine of setting up for lunch. Please check that your child **can open their lunch box**. Thank fully with the newer type of lunch boxes these days there is no need to wrap sandwiches. For lunch we ask that the children bring a healthy lunch - sandwich with a healthy filling, pasta or rice salad and some dried fruit/fresh fruit etc.

Please do not send

- Nutella, peanut paste or food containing nuts. We are a 'Nut Aware Site'.
- Sugary snacks, cakes, chocolate, biscuits and sticky buns.

Please ensure that your child's lunch is put into one of the trolleys provided.

Birthdays

The educators will acknowledge children's birthdays. We focus on the child's milestone rather than singing Happy Birthday and special food. Please do not send any birthday food.



Medication

Should your child require the administration of medication during their time at kindergarten please ensure that you have a signed and completed health care plan from your doctor.

Please do not place any medication in children's bags.

In order to ensure the good health of everyone in the kindergarten, and for your child's benefit, we ask that you do not send children who are obviously unwell to kindergarten.

Parent Involvement-how can you help us??

We value your involvement.

All parents are offered the opportunity to spend time at kindergarten with their child; this will give you the opportunity to read, garden, do puzzles, play games with your child. We also go on excursions and requests for help will accompany permission forms when they come home.

There are a number of occasions when the children will bring activities home to share with parents.

Often during the holidays, we need parents to volunteer to water our gardens.

Occasionally we also have parent meetings with guest speakers - you will receive notification about this in your newsletter.

From time to time, we have fundraising events where we may need your assistance. We also have working bees to help maintain our centre and save on the cost of employing people to do the work.

We have a Governing Council, elected annually at an Annual General Meeting in March to assist in the decision making in the centre and to support the educators in their work in the kindergarten. They will also need your support.



Current Governing Council

Chairperson:	Katelin Moir
Vice Chair:	Shannon Kearney
Secretary:	Simone Mill
Member:	Tara Tegan
Member:	Sandi Dunn

Preschool Director: Emily Wilkins
Preschool Teacher: Paul Ellmers

Curriculum Planning

The educators meet regularly to plan experiences and provocations for all children.

Curriculum planning is informed by pedagogical documentation and critical reflection that educators gather on each child. They plan based on individual and cohorts of children, using a purposeful play approach which reflects the interests, areas for growth, along with numeracy and literacy and dispositions for learning

Curriculum planning is guided by the national curriculum framework "Belonging, Being Becoming".

There will be many opportunities for discussions with our educators about your child's progress. At the end of your time at the kindergarten a Statement of Learning will be shared with you and passed on to your child's school.

Support Services

As we are funded by Department for Education we have access to Speech Pathologists, Psychologists, Social Workers, Aboriginal Workers, Special Educators and Bi lingual support. If you would like to access any of these services, please speak to the Preschool Director.

All children are offered the opportunity to have their 4.6 years Child and Youth Health Screening during their kindergarten year. Appointments can be made at the Child and Youth Health clinic in the Tower at Marion Shopping Centre.

If you wish to use the services of the School Dental Service they are situated at GP Plus Healthcare centre Marion adjacent to the Marion Cultural centre and Domain Medical Centre.



How else can you help us?

By supporting us in our work with your child. This means supporting all of our policies- especially around hats and food and it especially means keeping us informed about any changes in your family which may be impacting on your child.

It also means supporting us in our activities i.e., Activities which we design for children and parents as well as being interested in what your child is doing. We use a variety of methods to communicate with you - newsletters, the whiteboard, special notes, slide shows, learning stories and email.

From time to time, we have parent evenings with guest speakers.

You can also help us by helping at working bees/ and supporting our Governing Council with their fundraising activities as well as helping out at the different functions we have from time to time.

Any questions?

The educators are always willing to have short discussions with you but if you need a longer time please make a time as we really do need to be focussed on teaching the children while they are at kindergarten.

Sometimes issues may arise concerning your child or family situation and we are always ready to offer support in any way we can.

It is very important that these discussions do not take place in front of your child.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to the community of Somerton Park Kindergarten. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

Thank you,

Miss Emily, Paul, Emily, Helen and Kellianne
Somerton Park Kindergarten
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*“All young children thriving
and learning”*