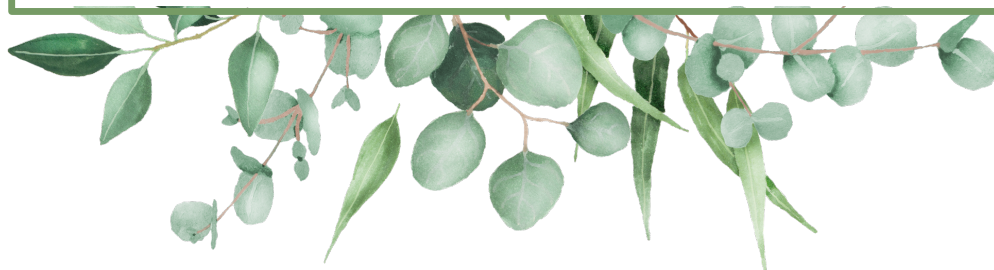




# WARRADALE KINDERGARTEN

## PARENT HANDBOOK



# WELCOME

Your child in A group can attend Kindergarten Monday and Tuesday from 8:30– 3:00 and odd week of the term Friday morning 8:30-12:30. If your child is in B group they can attend Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30– 3:00 and even week of the term Friday morning 8:30-12:30.

We understand if you are unable to attend the Friday session, due to other commitments. Please let the Kindy know if you are not able to attend that session.

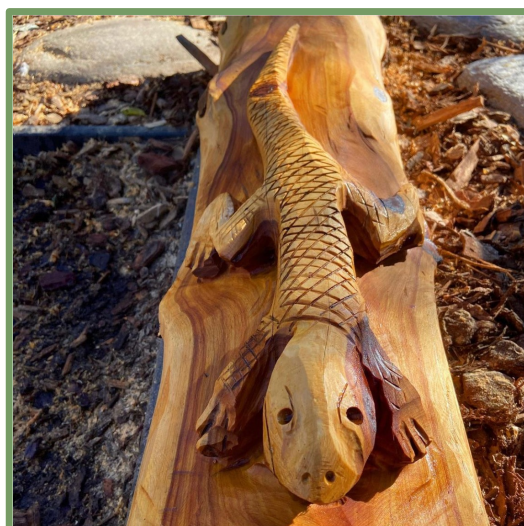
We are unable to swap days, in the event that you miss a day. Generally, once started we are not able to swap children between groups, as there is staffing and licencing requirements that we must adhere too. If due to unforeseen circumstances, you need to change groups please contact Amy as soon as possible.

## INCLUSIVE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Warradale Kindergarten Inclusive Preschool Program (IPP) supports preschool children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to optimise their learning outcomes within a localised preschool setting.

An Auslan Bilingual program where spoken English and Auslan (Australian Sign Language) are used simultaneously across the whole site.

The program will provide a language rich play environment for children who are Deaf and children from Deaf families, providing a strong foundation through Auslan and English to develop communication, early literacy and numeracy, social interactions and relationships.



# WHAT IS KINDY?...

Kindy is the first step in your child's education journey. It is a fun, happy, exciting place for children to be. The Kindy learning environment is purposefully set up to promote curiosity and wonder, and to encourage relationships, communication, and collaboration through play.

Play is at the core of our curriculum. The educators at Kindy strongly value play and the rich learning it provides young children. You might wonder, *'what is my child learning when they just get to play all day?' As child psychologist Jean Piaget quotes, 'play is the work of childhood', and as the Warradale educators will quote, 'the deep and meaningful learning opportunities play provides the children are endless!'*

The play experiences set up at Kindy are done so with purpose, and with children's learning in mind. For example, you might one day see some beads on the table in a basket. The beads have not just been put there as 'something to do', rather, there has been considered reasons *why* the beads have been provided for the children, and what learning will occur from the children participating. Some examples of this learning include: Numeracy skills - patterning, measuring, counting, sorting... fine motor strength, visual perceptual skills...the list goes on!

As equally important as play, our curriculum strives to develop children's positive dispositions for learning. Dispositions are combinations of children's emerging knowledge, skills, and attitudes to learning. Dispositions such as independence, curiosity, creativity, resourcefulness and perseverance are all strongly valued and instilled at Warradale Kindy.

Each fortnight the Kindy educators come together to plan and reflect on the fortnightly program. The children, their interests, wonderings, strengths and learning needs are what drive the program. There are also intentional teachings that occur, planned specifically by the teachers. Special events, visitors and excursions are also part of our program. The program is typed up and displayed in the Kindy bag room. You will also have the program emailed to you, so that you can see what learning is occurring at Kindy each fortnight. We love family feedback, and we love hearing about interesting events that might be happening in your world that we could include within the program!

The Kindy curriculum and program is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework of Australia, as well as the Literacy and Numeracy indicators for preschool.

# OUR DAILY ROUTINE

***Please understand that this is flexible and will be changed according to the needs of the children.***

**8:30am** Children arrive. Please ensure your child has sunscreen applied at or before Kindergarten. Morning sunscreen is the responsibility of the families and educators will support reapplication at lunch time.

**8:55am** Five-minute warning before transition into group time

**9:00am** Whole group time to share the experiences for the day. Introduce or extend the children to the area of learning we are engaging in our fortnightly curriculum.

**9:15am** Children exploring learning opportunities through play either inside or outside

Morning brain food throughout the morning as the children feel hungry. Children will be reminded.

**11:55am** Five-minute warning before group time

**12:00pm** Children to help reset Kindergarten indoor and outdoor environment  
Group time

**12:15pm** Sunscreen applied, wash hands, get own lunch box and drink bottle. Children sit down together and enjoy lunch either indoors or outdoors on picnic mats.

**12:45pm** Lunch boxes away (approximately)

**12:45pm** Children engage in various forms of relaxation (mediation, yoga, breathing exercises, and music)

**1:00pm** (approximately) Children exploring learning opportunities through play either inside or outside

**2:25pm** Five-minute warning to reset Kindy

**2:30pm** Children to help reset the Kindergarten ready for the next day.

**2:40pm** Pack bags

**2:45pm** Group time until picked up

**3:00pm** Kindy closed



# SEPARATING FROM YOUR CHILD

Creating a morning routine helps support your child's transition into kindergarten, it provides predictability and a sense of security. Involve your child in the routine supporting them to pack their own bag, get dressed etc. Allow enough time and keep the routine calm.

Have a goodbye plan if you know your child is feeling anxious. It is vitally important that you involve your child in creating a plan and that you say goodbye, rather than sneaking out. Your plan might be, "We will do two things together and then I will give you a hug and then I need to go; what would you like to do together?"

If you think your child will require support when saying goodbye, please let an educator know before you say goodbye so we can be with your child. Say "goodbye, I will pick you up at the end of the day" once and leave quickly. Saying goodbye multiple times or saying goodbye and not leaving is confusing and teaches your child that you say one thing, but do another. While as a parent it can be heartbreaking to see your child upset, once you have said goodbye it is important that you follow through on this, the longer you stay the more stressful the situation becomes for everyone. More often than not children settle quickly with the support of the educator and have generally stopped crying before you are even back to the car. Educators will do their best to contact you once you have left to let you know how your child is going. Please never leave your child without saying "goodbye", while it may seem like a good idea to leave while they are happy and to not upset them, once they realise you are gone it is very frightening. Children can feel a sense of loss, they will learn that you can't be trusted and will be anxious about coming to kindergarten the next time.

You are also welcome to ring throughout the day to check and see how they are going. Rest assured if your child is upset for an extended period of time and unable to be consoled we will call you.

Educators want to ensure every child has a smooth transition from home into Kindy. We have created a social story book (please see attached) with lots of photos to share with your child over the December/ January break. Please walk past and talk about what you can see at Kindy with your child. All of these things will help to support a smooth transition into Kindy.



# ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AT KINDY

Throughout some parts of 2020 parents were restricted to come into Kindy because of COVID. Even though it was a little disrupting to start with, we found it to be incredibly helpful to increase children's independence long term. We encourage you to give your child the opportunity to carry their own bag and responsible to put it away from the first day.

Families and children are welcome into the Kindy yard from 8:25am to put their bags away. Parents/ caregivers are required to stay with their child until 8:30am- this is a legal requirement. Please understand Educators use the morning to prepare for the day and will not be able to supervise your child before the session starts.

You are not required to be at Kindy by a certain time and are welcome to leave early if needed, for appointments etc.

Friday session finished at 12:30, children do sit down for lunch before they leave. Some children just have a small snack as they go out for lunch afterwards, it's up to you and what works best for your child.

End of the Kindy day finished at 3:00pm, all children must be picked up by then. You are welcome to come anytime beforehand, we generally pack up around 2:30pm and head in for end of day group time at 2:45 where we farewell children from.

When arriving and departing the centre please **only let children in your care through the gate**. Please do not allow children to open the safety latch on the gate. This must always be an adult's responsibility.

All children need to be signed in and out each day. This is located on the deck just before the entry into the Kindy room. If someone other than the parents/ legal guardians are picking up your child, please write their name next to your child's name on the roll and tell a staff member. They will need to show photo ID and be over 18 years of age. If there are changes to pick up that occur during the day, please ring the Kindy to inform of the person picking up.



## COMMUNICATION WITH KINDY

Our main correspondence with families happens via email. Please ensure you check your emails often, so you don't miss important updates. Hard copies of the Kindy invoice are found in your child's communication pocket. This is located inside the bag room; staff will place on the rail of the deck when there is something to be collected.

If your child is going to be away due to illness, holiday or special occasions please let us know as early as possible either via email or phone call. Please inform the staff if your child has a confirmed infectious disease, as we may have to notify our community and the Health Department.

The fortnightly learning program will be sent home so you are able to see the learning we are engaging in at Kindy. This is a great opportunity for you to discuss the learning your child is engaging in and extend them further.

We are available on email or phone to discuss anything about your child's learning throughout the year. If you feel like you need to discuss something with your child's educator that may take a bit longer, please email Amy to make an appointment. We will have a planned parent educator conversation at the beginning of term 2 to set some individual goals for your child.

## FINANCES

The Kindy fees are \$190 per term. There is no child care rebate available at Kindy. The preferred method of payment is bank transfer; details will be included on the invoice. If you pay cash we are unable to offer change until our finance officer has been, which is once a fortnight. We do not have an eftpos machine.

The kindergarten holds fundraising events throughout the year for consumables, equipment and renovations. These events are vital to support the operating costs of the Kindergarten and purchase new resources, and to maintain a beautiful fresh Kindergarten for all children. The resources used by your children in 2022 are the result of previous families fundraising efforts.



## ILLNESS

If your child is sick they will need to stay home. This is something that we need to be quite firm on especially in COVID times. We understand that children often get sick and it is common for runny noses, however SA health and DfE guidelines are very clear. If your child is showing any signs of a runny nose, cough, temperature they will need to stay home until well, or be cleared by a doctor to return.

To help stop the spread of infection children will need to remain at home if they are vomiting or have diarrhoea. They are only able to return once they have no symptoms for 24 hours.

If your child is diagnosed with an illness (Hand, foot and mouth, flu etc) they will be required to stay home until they have been given written clearance from a doctor to return to Kindy.

## ALLERGIES

We have children that are anaphylactic to all types of nuts. We ask that your child's food is nut free at all times. We also have a child that has a severe reaction to legumes, the Educators will monitor this each day ensuring no children are sharing food or leaving food accessible to others.

## COVID19

There were many changes to the way we do things in 2020/2021 due to COVID. What we do know is that things change quickly and so do our responses. The Department of Education and SA Health work very closely together and keep us updated as things happen. Our main form of communication is email, please check this often for the current updates and changes to the Kindy.



## KINDY CLOTHES

We offer you the chance to purchase Kindy clothing via

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

We have size samples available to try on at Kindy if you wish before purchase. Feedback has been that the size 6 a quite a big size. You are able to choose from many different colours. It will be delivered to your home and can be returned free of charge if it doesn't fit.

**Please ensure your child's clothing and hat is clearly labelled.**

## BIRTHDAYS

We celebrate the children's birthdays by singing 'Happy Birthday', and the child having the opportunity to wear the special birthday hat and jacket. Please do not bring in cakes, lollies, chocolate, toys or balloons. Party invitations can be given out via the children's communication pockets. Please ensure discretion when doing so to reduce children feeling left out.

## EXCURSIONS

We hope to be able to go on excursions with the children in 2022. We like to visit Kuitpo forest in term 2 and 3 for a bush Kindy day. Other excursions may include community walks around our local streets, visiting the tennis courts and playground, walking to Bunnings, Marion Shopping center or the Marion Cultural Center. We always love taking lots of parent/ caregivers to help support us on the day. Further information and consent forms will be given to families once these events are planned.



## TOYS FROM HOME

**Please do not bring toys from home.** Children become very distressed when their precious items get lost and it causes lots of additional worry and anxiety. Toys from home often cause conflict between peers and distraction from Kindergarten learning and engagement in the curriculum.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

Parents, caregivers and Grandparents are very welcome to be involved in our Kindy program. This may be helping out with excursions, cooking experiences, sharing a special talent or skill, helping to care and maintain our garden, helping Educators with small jobs. The staff are very appreciative of all support. We need to monitor volunteers and helpers and consider COVID restrictions, but if you are interested in helping out please let us know.

Our Kindergarten is supported by a parent Governing Council. A Governing Council Committee is elected each year, and being a member is an ideal way to become involved in your child's learning environment. The Governing Council Committee is made up of the Director, Staff representative and interested Parents - who assist in the efficient management of our Kindergarten. We depend on the involvement of parents for our smooth operation and high quality programs.

You are always welcome to attend meetings and we hope that you will become involved. It is a good way to meet people and learn a little more about what happens at the Kindergarten. Meetings are held twice a term at the Kindergarten to discuss matters related to the operation of the Kindy.

### Governing Council members are involved in:

- \* Management and administration of the Kindergarten, and contributing ideas regarding the service provided to our community.
- \* Financial management and fundraising.
- \* Planning for facilities and resources, and the maintenance and improvement of building, grounds and equipment.
- \* Curriculum and policy development
- \* Development of site plans and improvement documents.
- \* Involvement in planning for special events and celebrations.
- \* Networking with other parents

More information about our 2022 AGM and GC meetings will come early in term 1.

EDUCATORS WELCOME YOUR PARTICIPATION IN OUR PROGRAM  
AND WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT EDUCATION IS A PARTNERSHIP  
BETWEEN HOME AND KINDERGARTEN.

WE AIM TO MAINTAIN A FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING  
ATMOSPHERE FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND STAFF.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US AT ANY TIME ON  
8296 1035 OR EMAIL [AMY.MARTIN838@SCHOOLS.SA.EDU.AU](mailto:AMY.MARTIN838@SCHOOLS.SA.EDU.AU)

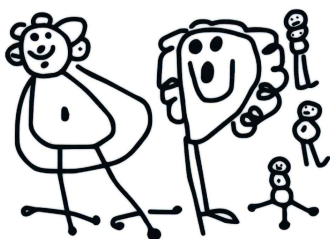
WE HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD WILL HAVE A REWARDING  
TIME WITH US AT WARRADALE KINDERGARTEN.





# eduTHREADS

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Warradale Kindergarten



Polo Shirt  
\$19.45



Long Sleeve T-Shirt  
\$19.00



Windcheater  
\$21.50



Adjustable Bucket Hat  
\$11.25

Want to try it on?

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test and try on any item.

If you order the wrong size we offer **free & fast**  
exchanges so you have the right fit.

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