

# Reynella South School Preschool



## Information booklet

## Welcome to Reynella South School-Based Preschool.

Set within large well-shaded grounds, our preschool is a dynamic, inclusive and vibrant centre. We offer children a range of exciting and challenging learning experiences. Our recently upgraded facilities ensure children enjoy a spacious, safe, well-resourced indoor and outdoor learning environment.

### Service Statement of Philosophy

We are committed to providing a nurturing and inclusive learning environment where diversity is valued and celebrated. Our program reflects children's individual needs, interests and prior knowledge and it is their voices that guide our learning journey. We value our relationships with children, families, staff and the wider community. In recognising parents as the child's first educator, we invest in developing partnerships with families and promote a welcoming learning environment where parents and carers feel comfortable to leave their children in our care. "I am very happy with the leadership and decision making at my child's preschool. All relevant information is shared with us which keeps us informed and involved at all times."

Our children are capable learners with unique learning styles. Literacy and numeracy are embedded into our play-based program and we believe in assessing the benefits as well as the risk in any endeavour. Children learn best through play: we get messy, we have fun and we get excited about our discoveries.

"I like the mud kitchen. we can make all mud things and it's fun to get messy." Ivy

"We went bird watching with telescopes." Harlee

We encourage children to feel free to express themselves, take risks, challenge themselves, problem solve, build resilience and persistence. We lay the foundations for life-long learning through fostering further dispositions: exploring, engaging, discovering, wondering, imagining and inquiring.

"When I was high on the swings that made me nervous, that was a challenge." Callan

"I loved when we shared our Nature Play passports with our Buddies. We found lots of bugs and I loved playing shops with leaves and seeds." Layla

We provide a variety of ways for children to connect with the natural environment and actively participate in sustainable practices.

"I just love seeing if Chickee-Chickee has laid an egg." Joshua

"We put our soft plastic wraps in the blue bin so it can be made in other things. Then it doesn't go in the ocean and make the sea animals sick." William

We recognise that preschool is an important transition from home to school. Being a school-based preschool provides us with many opportunities to offer children a variety of experiences that broaden their experiences within an educational setting and support their successful transitioning to school.

"I like it when our buddies come and do fun things with us. My best friend is Ella. I love to play with her when we have Big Yard Play." Mikayla

"I loved it when we had Sports Day on the oval with the school kids and I loved the Colour Run too." Kashif

## Our Staff

Our teachers are Jill Brooking and Jasmyn Aitken and our co-educator is Lucy Corbett.

Our staff are very experienced in the specialised field of Early Childhood Education. We work as a team and continue to improve our skills by regularly attending professional development. Our staff are happy to answer any questions you may have about our preschool or your child, please don't hesitate to ask.

## Preschool, Pre-entry, Playgroup and Kindy Club

### Session times and Fees

#### Preschool sessions:

Children who turn 4 years old before the 1st May 2023 are eligible to commence 15 hours of preschool (five sessions) at the beginning of the 2023 school year. Aboriginal children and children under the guardianship of the Minister for Families and Communities may access preschool from three years of age. Children who turn 4 years old between May 1<sup>st</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> October are eligible to start preschool mid-year in Term 3.

Our sessions are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9am -12pm  
Wednesday and Friday afternoons 12-3pm

Full day sessions are available.

FEES: \$60 per term

#### Pre Entry:

Pre entry is a transition to preschool program that occurs in Term 4 of the year prior to children starting full time preschool sessions or Term 2 for children starting mid-year.

Fees: \$20 per term

#### Kindy Club: Tuesday (afternoon session and morning session)

We are committed to giving every child every chance to have the best start in life. We recognise that many children in our local community, including those enrolled to begin preschool in 2023, would benefit from access to an additional learning program. Kindy Club is a teaching and learning program that supports play-based, child-centered learning. Our Kindy Club Program reflects the principles underpinning the Wellbeing For Learning and Life Framework which include a strengths-based approach, promoting wellbeing and resilience and empowering successful learning.

#### Aims of the Program

Through the program and design of our centre we aim to:

- create an atmosphere where children feel respected and loved
- nurture each child's self-worth
- promote each child's personal and social competence, health and literacy and numeracy
- guide each child's experimental play to promote understanding
- develop confidence through child-centred play
- develop effective communication skills
- encourage each child to explore, invent, discover, question and experiment
- develop positive learning dispositions that can be further nurtured in the home environment

## **Session Times and Bookings**

Bookings are available at a cost of \$10 per session.

Monday morning 9.00-12.00 and Tuesday afternoon 12.00-3.00pm

The Kindy Club account must be paid in full prior to children starting in order to secure a place. Payment is not refundable if children are absent. At the end of this period, a priority of access will be applied before accepting bookings for the next block.

## **Priority of access**

Priority will be given to children in the following order:

1. Children who turn 4 years-of-age after 1 May 2022 and enrolled at our centre for 2023
2. Children with a disability or those children eligible for early entry
3. Children enrolled at our centre for 2023 with siblings at Reynella South School
4. Children enrolled at our centre in 2022

## **Additional Support and Specialist Services**

In order to best support the learning and development of all children attending our preschool we spend time getting to know the children and learning about their individual skills, knowledge and interests. If we become concerned about a child's development during these observations, staff will discuss these with parents and a referral for further assessments may be recommended. If you have any concerns about your child's development, please make an appointment to discuss these.

Referral can be made to Specialist Staff available through The Department who can provide free assessments and learning support through the Preschool Support Program. Specialists available include speech pathologists, disability coordinators, early childhood psychologists and social workers.

Children who have been identified with additional needs in their learning or development through other agencies, may also be referred for additional assistance through the Preschool Support program. Staff work with many other agencies including Novita, Disability SA, Autism SA, Child, Youth and Women's Health Service (CYWHS), Flinders Medical Centre and Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital, to support children's learning. Early intervention is essential.

Both the onsite School Counsellor and Christian Pastoral Support Worker are also available to provide additional support to our families.

## Learning Program and Curriculum

All staff collect information about the skills, abilities and interests of each child through observation, samples of work, photographs, staff discussions and parent chats. This enables us to assess children's progress and if additional assistance may be needed, in order for each child to reach their potential.

We base our curriculum planning on information we gather about your child as well as our knowledge of early childhood education, growth and development. Using the National curriculum 'Belonging, Being, Becoming' and the Preschool Indicators for Literacy and Numeracy we plan learning experiences aimed to support your child to become an independent and enthusiastic learner.

Parents are welcome to talk with a staff member at any time. If you are concerned about an aspect of your child's development we have access to a speech pathologist, early childhood psychologist, social worker and special educator. ***Be assured that these discussions are kept confidential.***

Sharing information with parents is important to us. We invite all parents to formally meet with us during their child's first and last terms of preschool. An Individual Learning Plan is established during your child's first term at preschool. The Individual Learning Plan is developed by staff in consultation with families and takes into account your child's interests, strengths and areas identified as needing support. Individual Learning Plans are reviewed throughout your child's year at preschool to ensure it changes to meet their needs as they grow. A Statement of Learning is written at the end of the second term of preschool and a final statement at the end of the year to provide parents and Foundation teachers with information about your child's progress.

We have full access to the school library which we use every week. We enjoy a Physical Education program with the sports teacher in the school in Term 3 and a music program with the music specialist in the school in Term 2.

## Attendance Records

It is essential that an accurate record of attendances is kept for administrative and safety purposes.

**Parents are asked to sign their child/ren in on arrival using the sheets placed on the table on the deck by the entry door and also out when leaving.** Additional comments, such as who is picking you child up can also be placed on this sheet. If your child is unable to attend preschool, please ring and let us know. Messages can be taken by school staff from 7am each day.

## Child Health Checks

The CYWH nurse visits preschool regularly to conduct developmental screenings of children aged from four years at the preschool. This screening checks vision, hearing, general development as well as offering a chance to chat with the nurse about your child and any concerns you may have. Appointments are necessary and staff will advise when the nurse is next visiting.

## **Clothing and Footwear**

Children need to be comfortable and secure in moving on and around climbing equipment at preschool. Physical skills are best developed through the active play, and some items of clothing can restrict this freedom of movement or can be quite dangerous. Please dress your child in clothes that are OK to get messy or dirty and do not restrict movement when climbing. Children must wear shoes or sandals. PLEASE NO thongs, clogs, slip-on shoes as they can be very hazardous when climbing and running.

## **Communication**

Communication between home and preschool is essential. To aid in this process we ask that you connect with our digital learning platform, Seesaw and check regularly so that you are up to date with messages. We also encourage families to communicate with educators through this App. Staff will respond as soon as possible.

A preschool newsletter and a program overview are provided to families every four weeks. Any notices regarding special events and excursions will be directly handed to families or provided via an OSHC staff member.

## **Concerns Procedure**

If you have concerns relating to your child's education or experiences, please talk to us as soon as possible. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, there are other avenues you can explore. Please refer to our Parent Complaints and Concerns Procedure which can be found in the Policies folder on top of the bench above the lockers.

## **Friendship List**

A Friendship List is distributed to each family with contact details for each child in Term 1, including parent names, phone numbers and email addresses. In the interests of privacy this list is only distributed to those who have indicated they wish to be included on the list.

## **Health and Safety at Preschool**

We encourage the use of general health and safety guidelines so that the environment is safe for all children and adults. We need parent help to achieve this, as these habits are not just learned at preschool.

These guidelines are:

- teaching children to wash hands thoroughly, to eat healthy food, to safely handle and prepare food and to enjoy animals safely
- staff use safe practices in nappy changing and toileting, and handling of blood and body fluid spills (when necessary)
- regular professional cleaning of the facilities inside and out
- keeping an ill child at home.

## **In the event of Illness or Injury:**

If your child is unwell prior to arriving at preschool, in the interests of others, please keep your children at home. If your child becomes unwell or has an accident at preschool, we will contact you or other nominated emergency contact person as soon as possible. In an emergency staff will not hesitate to call an ambulance.

## **If your child has specific medical requirements:**

If your child requires medication to be taken, in general it is best if this is administered at home. Most medications these days can be administered 2-3 times a day outside preschool time.

If medication must be administered during attendance at preschool, staff must follow the following guidelines:

- A *MEDICATION PLAN* and if needed, a detailed health care plan for asthma, epilepsy, anaphalaxis or other specific conditions **MUST** have been completed by a doctor detailing dosage and symptoms as well as emergency action if needed. This must also be signed by the parent and there must be a review date on an action plan.
- Medication must be supplied in original containers and labelled with the child's name and correct dosage.
- Staff must be willing and trained to administer the medication.

We sometimes have children attending who have an anaphylactic (life threatening allergic) reaction to certain foods and other substances. This may mean we need to restrict those triggers in the centre. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a safe environment for every child.

## **Healthy Food and Nutrition Policy**

Our food policy has been developed with the help of a nutritionist, parents and staff. A copy of our policy is provided with this pack – please read it carefully. Children need a clearly named drink bottle with a secure lid, water only, and healthy food please, rather than foods high in sugar and heavily processed.

As we regularly have children with allergies it is important that that our nut-free policy is adhered to. We appreciate your assistance in providing a safe environment for every child.

## **Inclusion**

No child or family will be disadvantaged or discriminated against because of their race, religion, nationality, ability, gender, financial situation or marital status. Please do not hesitate to speak to a staff member if you have any questions or concerns.

## **Library Visits**

We access the school library two or three times a week for story time and book borrowing. The limit of one book per child applies to preschool children, and should books be lost parents may be liable for replacement costs.

## Parent /Carer Participation

We believe a close partnership and positive working relationship between the home and preschool is vital. Families and carers play a significant role as primary educators of children. We acknowledge this and foster successful relationships through building trust, respect and open communication. We encourage families and community members to experience and celebrate the learning journeys of our children. Our preschool is not just for the children; it is for parents, caregivers and families. Without your involvement many of our programs or extra activities would not happen.

### **How can you be involved?**

Our Preschool Parent Group meets 2 to 3 times per term. This group is essential to support fundraising activities, improvement projects and other tasks that arise along the way. Other ways you can be involved include: cooking with the children, reading a story, art and craft activities, walk and talk sessions, excursions, working bees, assisting with clean up at the end of the day/term.

If you wish to be involved in activities with the children including cooking and excursions, you will need to complete the Volunteer Induction process offered by the school. There is no cost to do this, simply a donation of your time to attend a meeting, complete some paperwork and a brief online training program.

## School Transition

We work closely with our Foundation classes to ensure children have a happy and smooth transition into school. Transition visits occur in the last few weeks of preschool and enable children to become more familiar with the school, staff, routines and expectations. We liaise with the school staff and provide a copy of your child's Summative Report to the school to ensure they have an understanding of the individual needs of your child.

## Sun Smart Policy

In keeping with our sun smart policy, please make sure your child is provided with a hat to wear at preschool. Outdoor play will be restricted to the sandpit only should your child have no hat as we have a strict NO HAT, NO PLAY policy. Please ensure your child has clothing suitable for being outside in the sun: tank tops and strappy tops are not suitable. All children need a CLEARLY NAMED appropriate hat (legionnaires or wide brimmed – which protect the face neck and ears) to wear all year round. Staff model this for children by wearing appropriate hats. Children who do not have hats are asked to play in areas protected from the sun e.g. the veranda or inside. NO HAT, NO OUTSIDE PLAY



## Supporting Children's Behaviour

Children's behaviour and how to support them in learning to manage and control their behaviour is the most talked about area of children's development. We recognise that most children learn best in a caring environment where the wellbeing of everyone is considered through a consistent, positive approach to behaviour support.

We use a guidance approach to behaviour management, teaching children to begin to take responsibility for their own behaviour. We aim for children to develop considerate behaviour, which includes self-discipline, empathy for others and cooperating with others and managing feelings appropriately.

We encourage children to talk through situations, the choices they could make and the possible results of their actions. We have developed a SITE BEHAVIOUR CODE which outlines our beliefs about children and their behaviours and how we support children and families.

Learning to get along with others and manage your own feelings and behaviour is one of the most important life lessons we can learn. Preschool is an ideal place to learn and practice these skills with caring adults for support.

If you are concerned about your child's behaviour at home or at preschool, please make a time to discuss this with the staff so that we can work together to help your child.

At our preschool we:

- believe everyone has the right to feel safe
- teach children to take responsibility for their own actions
- provide a supportive environment
- model and encourage positive ways of behaving
- provide explicit behaviour guidelines.