



Oakbank Kindergarten

2021

Staff: Julie Schultz Director

Julie Griggs Teacher

Jaime Goodenough Early Childhood Worker

Sessional times: every Tues & Wed, even weeks of term Thurs
(ie weeks 2,4,6,8,10) 9am to 3pm.

Parent Contribution Fee: set by the Governing council \$195 per term. Invoice is emailed start of term with due date towards end of term. Payment plans available in consultation with the Director. Cash or bank transfer options available.

Oakbank Little Acorns Playgroup: Wednesdays 9:30 -11:30am. Parents stay and play with their child. Gold coin donation. Bring fruit and water bottle and hat. Sunscreen on prior to arrival.

Genius Childcare Oakbank: To support working parents a free shared service is offered in transitioning children in care from each site before and after kindy sessions. Written Parent consent is required.

Pre-Entry transition visits: Term 4 the year prior to starting kindergarten. Three visits for 2 hours. Oct 14th, 28th and Nov 11th.
The cost is \$15 in total.

Early Entry: Children with Special Rights (additional needs), children under the Guardianship of the Minister, Aboriginal children and non-English speaking children may be eligible.

4 Year old Health Checks: Child and Family Health Services utilize our facilities for appointments in association with the 4 year old health screening, later in the year i.e. generally Term 3.

Community Links:

- Access to Oakbank Soldiers Memorial Hall
- Involvement with local feeder schools and students
- Placement of Year 10 / 11 Work experience students
- Placement of University Student teachers
- Parent and special visitor events
- Planting at the kindergarten and the community in conjunction with Adelaide Hills Council
- Excursions to Oakbank Area School and local community facilities e.g. Bowling Club, Emmett's, Pizza Shop
- Hosting guest speakers e.g. KESAB

DfE Support Services: Children and families attending Sessional Kindergarten can have access to DfE Support Services, including Psychologist, Speech Pathologist, Social Worker and Special Educator.

Immunisation: Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting children and others in the community by reducing the spread of disease. Families with children enrolled in a DfE preschool service are required by SA Health to provide immunisation evidence prior to using the service (ie Australian Immunisation register (AIR))

We welcome parent help

Joining Governing Council: An AGM is held at the start of each year to elect the Governing Council which meets twice a term. Members monitor the budget and contribute to the development of policies, site improvement plans and future directions. Members have the opportunity to meet with other parents and staff to learn more about how the kindergarten works and make decisions that support its operation. Please see Julie if interested.

Kindergarten Events / Working Bees: On these occasions we have a morning tea where families are invited to come along. If you are unable to attend these you may consider asking a special friend, grandparent or relative to come in your place.

Join in the fun: When you arrive at kindergarten you are welcome to stay as long as you like and participate in the range of experiences with your child. Children enjoy this opportunity to share their interests with their families. Make sure you check the 'Big book of Learning' which highlights our discoveries and achievements.

Sharing your hobbies/special talents: If you have a hobby or special talent to share with the children please speak with staff to arrange a visit. If you have family members who are artists, builders, sew-ers, writers etc. we would welcome their involvement in the program.

Tidying up: During or at the end of each session there are many cleaning jobs to be done to prepare for the next session and to maintain the facilities, we appreciate your help. We also seek your support with our laundry which you can take home at the end of the week. We have a roster for end of term jobs.

Fundraising: Our kindergarten only has 15-22 enrolments which provides limited fee income and it can be difficult to raise the funds required to maintain the kindergarten and still purchase new resources. We ask that where possible families are involved in fundraising events e.g. raffles, Bunnings sausage sizzle

General information

- Children need to be signed in and out of Kindergarten. You will find the Daily Attendance sheet in the entrance area.
- If someone else is to pick up your child please let a staff member know and write it in the comments section of the Daily Attendance sheet.
- We promote and encourage healthy eating, your child will be asked to eat their fruit/vegetables first at snack time and sandwiches first at lunch. **Please do not send food with NUTS.** Notices of any other allergies will be communicated to all families as they arise.
- Thongs, slip on shoes, rubber boots and crocs are not appropriate shoes to wear. These collect bark chips and can also cause slipping/tripping on the climbing which could result in an injury.
- Please do not send your child in good clothes - they may get paint, mud, goop, clay etc. on their clothes which can be difficult to remove.
- Kindergarten polo shirts, hats and windcheaters are available from WorkLocker at Mt. Barker.
- The site will **CLOSE** on days of **catastrophic** weather in the Mount Lofty region. You will be notified after 5pm the day before.

What will my child need to bring? *Please name everything!*

- A bag large enough to hold their belongings such as spare clothes and other belongings, plus any creations made whilst at kindergarten - each child has a named locker on the verandah.
- A piece of fruit for morning snack and afternoon snack i.e. cut and or peeled is appreciated if this is how they eat it.
- A named drink bottle containing water only.
- For lunch they need a sandwich or another healthy lunch time food (suggestions are written in the Nutrition and Food Policy).
- A named bucket, broad brimmed or legionnaires style hat with no cords attached permanently stored in child's bag for the year.
- Children need to be in comfortable clothing (Sun Smart e.g. shoulders covered)
- We ask that children do not bring toys to kindergarten unless they need a comforter for separation issues.

Toys can be lost or broken and we have wonderful resources here.

Communication Methods

- **Conversations:** We like to speak to as many parents as possible each day however this is not always possible. We welcome parents to approach staff to discuss issues or just have a chat about your child. Please make an appointment if you would like to have a deeper conversation at a mutually convenient time with staff.
- **Newsletters:** We include curriculum news, what's been happening and other important information in the newsletter. Please take the time to read them as they often contain important dates. In between newsletters, text messages and emails will be sent to all families.
- **Communication pockets:** These are located near the entrance with your child's name. Your newsletters, invoices, receipts and accident reports will be put into your pocket, we ask you to check these daily. For families whose children use Goodstart Early Learning Centre we will ensure notices, newsletters, receipts etc. are placed in your child's bag.
- **Displays** throughout the kindergarten: Please view our displays that highlight the children's learning and achievements. Displays include photo's, art work or information about what's been happening. Please take the time to look around and see what children have been doing, you will be amazed at their talent!
- A large book called the '**Big Book of Learning**' displays the program with planned experiences, photos, descriptions, children's interests, ideas and reflections. We welcome parent's written feedback in this book.
- Children's **Learning Journals** are a record of their development, achievements and shared experiences. They can be viewed at any time and are also sent home during the year for you to view, comment on and return to the centre. The children are presented with their Learning Journal at the end of the year at their graduation ceremony.

The Importance of Attendance: It is important for children to attend kindergarten regularly. It helps them to develop a sense of self within the program, settle in and build relationships with their peers and with staff. It helps them get to know the rules and routines. It establishes and builds on the value of education. However, we ask that you do not send your child if they are unwell to limit the spread of infection. Please phone or text the staff when your child is unable to attend.

We need to know projected numbers for the future. If you know families who have young children please ask them to contact the centre to ensure a place for them in their child's kindergarten year.

Learning at Oakbank Kindergarten using the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) Belonging, Being, Becoming

We plan for children's learning using:

- The EYLF Learning Outcomes
- Preschool Literacy and Numeracy Indicators.
- Children's voice - we ask them what they want to learn, observe their interests and seek their ideas.
- The children's identified needs.
- Mandated DfE requirements such as the "Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum".
- Planned Governing Council, Kindergarten and Community Events including liaising with local feeder schools.
- The natural environment and nature based resources which leads to many different learning directions. We visit a local 'Bush Kindergarten' reserve as often as possible.
- Excursions into the local community including short walks and organised excursions linked to the curriculum.
- Facilitators / educators such as scientists, performers etc. for incursions.
- A dance program - 'Dancify', with an instructor each year.
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Assessment and Reporting

Learning Journals: Your child's work is placed into their journal which is given to them to keep at the end of their Kindergarten year. The journal includes work samples (paintings, drawings, writing), photographs and observations linked to learning outcomes, learning stories and group experiences. You are welcome to look through and discuss

your child's journal with your child and with staff at any time. We send the journals home during the year to support your understanding and knowledge of your child's learning. We welcome feedback and suggestions for future learning goals.

Staff refer to connections with the Early Years Learning Framework and Literacy/Numeracy indicators to report on your child's learning.

Reporting to parents during their child's kindergarten year includes:

- An Individual Learning Plan which reflects your child's strengths and interests and includes staff / parent ideas on future learning goals.
- DfE Statement of Learning which details your child's kindergarten learning journey and is shared with your child's school to ensure a smooth transition.

Policies: We have a number of policies which are available to view in a folder in the entrance area and on our website. Some are listed below. Please see staff if you require more information:

- Assessment and Reporting
- Attendance
- Behaviour Management
- Bushfire Ready
- Childcare
- Critical Incident
- Excursions
- Emergency and Evacuation/ Invacuation
- Grievance Process
- Medical conditions
- Nutrition
- Parent Contribution Fee
- Sleep and rest
- Sunsmart

National Quality Framework

The National Quality Framework (NQF) for Early Childhood Education and Care helps ensure your child is given the best possible start in life.

The NQF has quality standards to improve education and care across all early childhood services throughout Australia. We were accredited Exceeding in all 7 areas.

Quality Area 1. Educational program and practice:

An educational program which maximises each child's learning and development.

Children are viewed as capable and competent learners inclusive of different cultures and abilities.

Quality Area 2. Children's health and safety:

Your child's safety and health are important all day, every day. Your child will be safely supervised and children will feel secure. Good nutrition and hygiene practices are promoted and encouraged.

Quality Area 3. Physical environment:

Indoor and outdoor spaces allow your child to play, learn and develop their physical skills.

Sustainable practice is embedded into our program.

Quality Area 4. Staffing arrangements

Qualification requirements and educator-to-child ratios mean greater individual care and attention for your child.

Quality Area 5. Relationships with children:

Your child will feel safe, secure and that they belong. Positive relationships with educators help your children to play and learn.

Quality Area 6. Partnerships with families and communities:

When families and communities are part of a service, your child's learning journey and development is enriched.

Quality Area 7. Leadership and Service Management:

The service is well managed and provides a safe and healthy learning environment.

Phone numbers and websites that might be useful

Oakbank Kindergarten	8388 4141
Oakbank Area School	8398 7200
Genius Childcare Oakbank	8388 4451
CYH	1300 733 606
Adelaide Hills Community Health	8393 1833

Mt Barker Hospital-enquiries	8393 1777
School Dental Service (Mt Barker)	8391 0858
Woodside Library	8408 0520
Kids Helpline	1800 55 1800
Parents Helpline	1300 346 100
Health Direct Australia	1800 022 222

Adelaide Hills Council: www.ahc.sa.gov.au

Department of Education: www.education.sa.gov.au

Playgroup SA website: www.playgroupaustralia.com.au/sa

National Quality Framework website: www.acecaq.gov.au

Parenting Easy Guides: http://old.decd.sa.gov.au/parentingsa/peglist_general.htm

In an emergency dial 000 and ask for Police, Fire or Ambulance