

Information Book



Oakbank Kindergarten is a place of Joy and Wonder!

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214 Onkaparinga Valley Road
Oakbank 5243

Director: Irene O'Callaghan

Teacher: Kiri Dolman

ECW: Floria Talajan



Government of South Australia

Department for Education

Dear Families,

Thank you for choosing Oakbank Kindergarten for your child's kindergarten year. We offer an exciting program informed by children's interests, the four elements—water, earth, fire and air, our environment, and our families and community. We promote a play enriched program which engages the children in learning activities which nurture respect for ourselves, each other and our world. In 2023 we have enjoyed a staff of 3 team members - Director/Teacher: Irene O'Callaghan, Teacher: Kiri Dolman and ECW: Floria Talajan. We hope our team can continue in 2024 (this is dependent on enrolment numbers).

Session times

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Odd weeks	-	9am-3pm	9am-3pm	Playgroup 9am-11am	-
Even weeks	-	9am-3pm	9am-3pm	9am-3pm	-

Parent Contribution Fees

Set by the Governing Council fees for 2024 will be \$210 per term. An invoice will be emailed at the start of each term. We offer other programs that may have an additional cost e.g. excursion to Monarto Zoo. Payment plans are available in consultation with the Director.

Little Acorns Playgroup

Our playgroup is held on Thursdays on odd weeks of the term from 9am-11am. Playgroup provides wonderful opportunities for children and parents to meet other families from our broader community in a friendly environment to chat, play and learn. It also offers an extended transition to kindergarten. Please bring fruit, a water bottle, hat and \$2 donation. Please apply sunscreen prior to arrival.

Mayfield Childcare Oakbank

A free shared service is offered in **transitioning** children in care from each site **before and after kindergarten sessions**. Written parent consent is required.

Early Entry

Your child may be able to come to preschool one term earlier than their official preschool year, if they:

- are under the Guardianship of the Minister, Aboriginal, or learning English as an additional language or dialect
- have additional needs or disability
- are at significant risk because of family circumstances.

Early entry is available depending on enrolment numbers, if places are available. Access is decided on a case-by case basis.

DfE Support Services

Student Support Services staff work with preschools where there are children who have particular educational support needs. Types of support offered to your child through preschool and school:

- behaviour support coach (social/emotional)
- speech pathology (speech, language and communication)
- special educator/special educator hearing (hearing loss, learning difficulties and or health support needs)
- English as an additional language or dialect
- Aboriginal Education Services

Immunisation

Under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011 (the Act), families with children enrolled in a DfE preschool service are required to provide immunisation evidence prior to attend early childhood services.

Governing Council:

An AGM is held at the start of each year and parents/guardians can join the governing council at this time or at any time through the year. Meetings are held twice a term in the evening. Members meet with other parents and staff to learn more about how the kindergarten works, and make decisions that support its operation and future directions.

Sharing Skills and Talents

We welcome family participation in sharing their range of skills and experiences with the children, such as art, crafts, story telling, profession, cooking, languages, culture, musical ability and such.

Fundraising

We ask that where possible families are involved and participate in fundraising events. For example, the kindergarten photo fundraiser has always been popular and successful.

Kindergarten Events

Throughout the year Oakbank Kindergarten will host events for various purposes that link to the curriculum. The children will send out an invitation to their families to come along and join in the fun. This is a great way to be involved in your child's learning experiences during their kindergarten journey. We appreciate your support as it helps to grow the kindergarten community.

General Information

Please sign your child in and out of kindergarten. You will find the signing in sheet near the children's locker area. Each child has a named locker on the verandah.

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. They need to be a defined "emergency" or collect only contact person on the enrolment form. This can be updated as required.

We collaborate with families to promote healthy eating, and encourage children to develop life long healthy eating habits. Please pack snacks, lunches and beverages (just water please) that are nutritious.

We ask that children bring their own named drink bottle filled with water only. Notices of allergies will be communicated with families as they arise.

Please avoid thongs, slip on shoes, and crocs as these collect bark chips and can also cause slipping and tripping during climbing activities which could result in an injury.

Please send your child in their "kindy" clothes, as they may get paint, mud, goop, clay etc. on their clothes. We want them to participate in these experiences without being concerned about their clothes.

Sun protection measures are in place during term 1, 3, and 4 (or from 1st August to April 30th) and whenever the UV index is 3 and above at other times.

Please support your child to be ready for sun safe outdoor play by applying sunscreen in the mornings prior to kindergarten. Children will be supported to re-apply sunscreen during the day.

Kindergarten polo shirts and windcheaters are available to purchase from us. We organise this with a local supplier. Please speak with our staff. As part of our fees we will supply each child a bucket hat with the kindergarten logo which can stay on site so that it's always available when needed.

The site will **CLOSE** on days of **catastrophic** weather in the Mount Lofty region. You will be notified after 5pm the day before.

Your child will need to bring a bag large enough to hold their belongings, such as spare clothes, lunch, snack and drink bottle. **Please name everything!** We ask that children do not bring toys to kindergarten unless they need a comforter for separation challenges.

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 with staff if you would like to have a deeper conversation at a mutually convenient time

Newsletters: We include curriculum news, what's been happening and other important information in our newsletters. Please take the time to read them as they often contain important dates. In between newsletters, text messages and emails will be sent to families as required.

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.

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 parents' 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 year celebration event as it forms a large part of our assessment and reporting.

[The Importance of Attendance](#)

We encourage regular attendance at kindergarten as it helps your child 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, and 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.

[Learning at Oakbank Kindergarten using the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia V2.0,2022 \(EYLF\) 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, Mobile Junk and Nature Play, and 'Dancify' dance program. We are always keen to have recommendations for performers/facilitators for future incursions.

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 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.

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

Reporting to parents of child's learning development includes:

- Parent/Teacher conversations to share insights about your child, including their family history, strengths and interests and parent/educators' ideas on future learning goals.
- End of Year Statement of Learning details your child's kindergarten learning journey and is then 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. Please see staff if you require more information.*

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 and strive to continue providing this high quality service to children and their families.

Volunteering: There's always something to do at kindergarten. If you have time to help we would appreciate your support with jobs such as washing towels and smocks, sharpening pencils, bringing roadside bins in, or odd maintenance jobs.

Support us to grow: Word of mouth is our best advertisement and helps us to maintain a well attended, vibrant kindergarten community, so as the year progresses please talk with others about your positive experiences. Please contact staff with any questions and feel free to direct any potential new families to us.

Our Daily Timetable (is Flexible)

8.00—9.00am Staff arrive and set up for the day

9.00am Children and families are welcomed to Kindergarten. Parents/Guardians sign children in. Families please apply Sunscreen if UV 3+ this can be done at kindergarten if not already completed at home. Outside play until morning circle time.

9.30am Morning circle group time

9.45am Munch and Crunch morning tea time

10.15am Free inside/outside play

11.45am Group time

12.00pm Lunch

12.30pm Rest time or quiet activities

12.50pm Free inside/outside play

2.30pm End of day pack up time

2.45pm End of day group time

3.00pm End of session - Educators walk some children across to Genius Child Care.

N.B. Please note Staff have duty of care from 9am and we request prompt collection at 3.00pm as we need to walk children to child care.

Our day is flexible, we do lots of cooking activities—these are often done first thing in the morning so sometimes our morning group is a little later. Group times involve content such as storytelling, reading books, listening to stories, playing games, songs, movement, verse, and lots of other learning ... We appreciate some children are required to be collected early due to family commitments but if children can be part of as many group times as possible this is wonderful for their development of listening and participation skills. Thank you!

Oakbank Kindergarten 2024 Term Dates

Term 1 Tuesday 30th January - Wednesday 10th April

Term 2 Tuesday 30th April - Thursday 4th July

Term 3 Tuesday 23rd July - Thursday 26th September

Term 4 Tuesday 15th October - Wednesday 11th September

Phone numbers and websites that might be useful

Oakbank Kindergarten 8388 4141 0419 506 872

Oakbank School 8398 7200

Genius Childcare Oakbank (08) 7190 4000

Child and Youth Health 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 0420

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800

Parents Helpline 1300 346 100

Health Direct Australia 1800 022 222

SA COVID-19 Information Line 1800 253 787

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

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

Playgroup SA website: www.playgroupsa.com.au

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

Parenting Easy Guides: <https://parenting.sa.gov.au/easy-guides>

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