Information Book

Banksia Park
Kindergarten

8263 0487
Our Philosophy

Our service values, believes and understands that children learn best in a safe and secure and happy environment in which encourages children to play, have fun, explore, hypothesize and construct their own learning. We strongly advocate and practice play as integral to quality curriculum.

We believe that each child starts Kindergarten with Knowledge skills and ideas and are competent and capable learners. We agree that that listening, respecting and responding to each child’s voice (self-expression of perspectives and ideas) and to each child’s views and ideas are essential elements in the learning process.

We believe that educators are co learners with children and their families; and that an inquiry approach and reflection of our best practice regarding each child’s learning and development. We examine various learning theorists and how they influence our practices and that we are open to many perspectives and practices. This is an essential process in our teaching and learning program and professional development.

We believe that an environment that values and upholds trust, respect and collaboration is conducive to each person’s learning and achievement. We value inclusive practices and cultural diversity. We also strongly value sustainability and practices supporting this.

We believe that learning is an ongoing shared journey, where literacy and numeracy are encompassed and interwoven in each child’s learning journey activities, language and learning style.

The development and building of relationships is integral to all areas of our curriculum.

Staff

Director: Elspeth McKinnon
Teacher: Dace
Early Childhood Worker: Caterina

Session times and fees

Tuesday 9am—3pm
Wednesday 9am—3pm
Thursday 9am—12pm

Fees are $80 a term and can be paid by cash at the Kindergarten or online.

Playgroup

Banksia Park Playgroup caters for children aged 0-4years and is held weekly on Friday mornings from 9.00-11.30am. It is held at the kindergarten therefore having access to a large variety of facilities and equipment. Playgroup Association fees are $35.00 per year (per family) or $15.00 per term. Playgroup fees are $15 a term or $20 for more than one child. Fees can also be paid on a sessional basis.

How can I find out what is happening at kindergarten?

Each child has a named ‘pocket’ where we put newsletter, receipts and notes for parents and families. We regularly write newsletters informing parents of important dates coming up, curriculum news and other things that are happening in and around the kindergarten.
What to bring...

- A bag to keep Children’s belongings in.
- A healthy snack e.g. fruit, vegetables, cheese, sultanas. WE ARE A NUT FREE CENTRE, please avoid sending muesli bars, Nutella, peanut paste etc. No sweet biscuits, cakes, chocolates or lollies.
- Please provide a named water bottle. Water is available to children at all times. Please do not send cordial as it often spills, attracting ants & staining carpets, etc.
- A sun hat - board rimmed to protect ears & back of neck.
- A change of clothes
- Please do not send your child in thongs as they are dangerous for climbing
- Dress your children appropriately, as sometimes kindy can get a bit messy. We do provide painting smocks.
- Please encourage- your child to leave their toys at home as they may get lost or damaged, causing distress to your child.
- PLEASE NAME ALL BELONGINGS!!!!

Health checks and developmental services

These are held at various times during the year. You will be advised when your child is eligible by newsletter/letter. If you have any concerns about your child’s development please let the staff know as we may be able to make referrals to other DECD services such as speech pathologists or disability coordinators.

What if someone different is picking up my child?

It is our policy that you must notify us when someone other than the parents is picking up the child. You need to write it down in the blue diary on the Sign In table underneath the children’s pockets. In an emergency, please telephone us and let us know who is picking up your child.

What happens if there is a fire?

We have an emergency evacuation procedure which is practiced once per term with the children. A warning whistle is used to assemble everyone at the double gates (leading into the school car park) where children, staff, parents and visitors can be accounted for and then move to a safe area. eg the school.

What happens if my child needs medicine?

DECD has strict guide lines and policies we adhere to. We can only give prescribed medicine that is in original bottle with the child’s name on it. We need a form filled out that we sign when the medicine has been given. Please do not leave any medicine in the child’s bag.

How can families help the Kindergarten?

We encourage parents to be involved and participate at our Kindergarten. There are lots of ways you can be involved and help:

- Collect boxes for the children’s creative collage pieces
- Take the washing when your name is on the roster, if you are un-able to help the week you are listed please speak to staff so we can adjust it.
- Help us maintain our beautiful garden by taking a turn, when your name comes up on the roster.
- Attend our working bees
- Support fundraising efforts (most important)
- Help out during session times doing things like cutting up materials, assisting children, reading stories, cooking, cleaning up at end of session, washing tables, etc.
**Governing Council**

This is made up of interested and committed volunteer parents who represent user groups of the centre. E.g. kindergarten/ playgroup

We have two meetings per term. (Times are set by the members)

The governing council discusses issues that affect the Kindergarten e.g. services offered, financial matters and budget, building and ground maintenance, policies and fundraising issues and ideas. This is a great way to get to know other parents who are committed to making the kindergarten better for the children and have a little fun along the way. Parents on the governing council work for the mutual benefit of all the children and families involved.

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**South Australian State Schools Term Dates**

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<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
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<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>2013 29 Jan—12 Apr</td>
<td>29 Apr—5 Jul</td>
<td>22 Jul—27 Sep</td>
<td>14 Oct—13 Dec</td>
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**Literacy kits and parent borrowing**

We have a range of books and props set up in kits for our families to borrow. These are a great way of promoting children’s literacy skills. They are usually placed at the kindy entrance and there is a folder for parents to sign when the children borrow. We also have a range of books that parents might like to look at in the parent library and these are also available for borrowing. Feel free to ask any of the staff if you need further information.

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**Policies**

Our centre has various policies to promote equity, safety and maintain quality practices. These policies are legal requirements and are updated regularly. Some policies are Department of Education and Children’s Development (DECD) others are site specific. All of the DECD policies are available online at www.decd.sa.gov.au/policiesreg168. Our site Policies are in a folder in the parent library and can be accessed whenever needed. The policies include:

- Sun Smart Policy- How we protect children from sun. We wear wide brimmed hats every day in Terms 1 and 4. In Terms 2 and 3 we don’t wear hats if the UV rating is low. Hats should still be in bags should the UV rating is higher.
- Behaviour management Policy- This document guides practices for developing children’s own self-discipline while keeping children and the environment protected.
- Parent Concerns and complaints Policy- Promoting clear, open and equitable communication.
- Food and Nutrition Policy- Promoting healthy eating
- Nut Awareness Policy- We have children with severe allergies (Anaphylactic) and children of this age are still developing self-regulation skills so we ask no nut products to be bought to kindergarten.

More details on these policies are in the folder and are well worth a read. They are also published on our web site.
Curriculum

We use the Early Years Learning Framework to guide our program that is responsive to children’s ideas, interests and strengths. This framework recognises the importance of learning through play and describes childhood as a time of belonging, being and becoming.

- **Belonging**: Children develop relationships with family, community and place
- **Being**: Childhood is a special time and children need time to play, try new things and have fun
- **Becoming**: Children form their sense of identity which shapes the type of adult they will become.

The Learning Framework (EYLF) has five learning goals these include:

- A strong sense of identity
- Connections with their world
- A strong sense of wellbeing
- Confidence and involvement in their learning
- Effective communication skills

We program over a fortnight but we are flexible and responsive to children as not to miss out on valuable learning opportunities. Our curriculum involves many different experiences including excursions. We ask permissions on enrolment for local walks. Any experience that requires travel or a cost (we will always try to keep this affordable) we will ask for specific permission and do a risk assessment first. We use the EYLF in our assessments as well as in our program planning. We welcome parent feedback and ideas. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to ask!