

SOMERTON PARK KINDERGARTEN



We welcome you to Somerton Park Kindergarten and we trust that you will enjoy your kindergarten experience with us.

Your teachers are:

Laura Mathews:	Director: Full time
Paul Ellmers:	Teacher: Full time
Amy Martin:	Teacher: Part time
Sue Warland:	Early Childhood Worker: Mon, Tues all day and Staff Meeting
Helen Bruijn:	Early Childhood Worker: Wed, Thurs all day and Staff Meeting
Julieann Sutton:	Playgroup coordinator
Leonie Smith:	Finance Officer
Francie Bourke:	Administration Officer.

Term Dates

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2017	30 Jan – 13 Apr	1 May – 7 Jul	24 Jul – 29 Sep	16 Oct – 15 Dec
2018	29 Jan – 13 Apr	30 Apr – 6 Jul	23 Jul – 28 Sep	15 Oct – 14 Dec

Kindergarten

Priority for enrolment is given to those children whose closest kindergarten to their residence is Somerton Park Kindergarten.

Children can access 15 hours per week of kindergarten in the year prior to them starting school when they are 4 years old by the 1st May.

Children will need to turn 5 by the 1st May to commence school at the start of Term 1.

*All kindergartens now require proof of date of birth at the time of enrolment either with a current passport, birth certificate or official Centre link documentation with the child's name and date of birth

Attendance schedule

A group: Monday full day (8.15-3.45)/ Tuesday full day (8.15-3.45)

B group: Wednesday full day (8.15-3.45)/ Thursday full day (8.15-3.45)

Kindergarten Parent Contributions are \$170.00 per term. It is an expectation that families support some of the Governing Council initiated fundraising that occurs throughout the year.

Dropping off and collecting your child

The kindy day is 8.15am – 3.45pm

Please understand that the teachers do need time to set up before sessions and often have meetings to attend at the end of the day and this is made difficult if parents are early or late.

Please call us on 8296 1503 if you are late so that we can reassure your child.

Ensure that you have read and understood the Delivery and Collection of the Children Policy.

Clothing

Please ensure your children are dressed comfortably and in clothes which will survive the odd spills of paint, mud, glue etc. The children are encouraged to wear smocks for all messy activities but sometimes they forget and accidents happen.

We ask that parents support the policies of the centre by:

- Ensure children have a change of clothes in case of accidents, please include underwear and socks.
- Children want to be independent. Please help your child by dressing them in clothes which are quick and easy to remove when they need the toilet- please avoid tricky buckles/belts/overalls etc.
- Providing sandals or closed shoes-no thongs or crocs please as they do not stay on children's feet easily and are dangerous when climbing and running.
- Providing a sun smart hat-(legionnaires, bucket or wide brim-no caps) everyday. The kindergarten has a "NO hat, play in the shade policy" when UV levels are 3 or higher.
- A jacket or a jumper needs to be in your child's bag each day as our shady trees are very cooling even on warm days.
- T-shirts or dresses with short sleeves in the summer for the girls - **no shoe string straps or singlets** as they provide no protection against the sun.
- Clothing, hats and shoes need to be clearly named.

The lost property is on the verandah.

We have clothing available with the kindergarten logo – T-shirts, hats, and beanies. Please see a staff member if you'd like to order.

Borrowing books

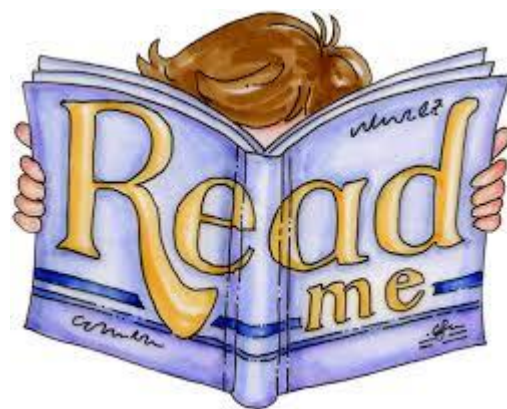
We have a variety of great books which are available for loan.

Developing literacy skills at Somerton Park Kindergarten is a very important part of our curriculum.

We know how important reading to children is- it is one of the most important factors in children developing a love of language and consequently a desire to read and write.

A folder is available for recording book loans. Please take care of our books and return them within a week as other children will be waiting to borrow them.

Please report any damage or loss to the teachers





Lunch, Snacks and Drinks

Each child needs to bring to kindergarten a bottle of **water** for drinking. Please ensure that your child can manage opening and closing the bottle.

We ask that parents support our healthy food policy by sending nutritious food to kindergarten.

The Policy is attached, please ensure that you have read it and adhere to it.

We have a snack time at kindergarten in the morning and the afternoon so please send two pieces of fruit or veggie sticks. We sit together as a group and eat our fruit after we have washed our hands.

At lunch time we sit together at tables. The children are encouraged to assist with the routine of setting up for lunch. Please check that your child **can open their lunch box**. Drink bottles and lunch boxes need to be clearly labelled.

For lunch we ask that the children bring a healthy lunch in line with our policy.

Please do not send

- Nutella, jam, peanut paste or food containing nuts.
- Sugary snacks, cakes, chocolate, biscuits and sticky buns.
- Cakes, biscuits or **anything in a commercial wrapper** - food that has been commercially produced-muesli bars, fruit bars usually have traces of nuts and we will not allow children to consume these on the premises as we often have children with life threatening allergies to nuts and nut products.

Please ensure that your child's lunch is put into one of the trolleys provided inside, and please leave their morning snack in their bags.

Birthdays

We do acknowledge children's birthdays with a birthday song and blowing out of candles on a special kindy birthday cake. We focus on the child's milestone rather than special food. Please do not send any birthday food.



Medication

Should your child require the administration of medication during their time at kindergarten please ensure that you have a signed and completed health care plan from your doctor. Please do not place any medication in children's bags.

In order to ensure the good health of everyone in the kindergarten, and for your child's benefit, we ask that you do not send children who are obviously unwell to kindergarten.

Parent Involvement-how can you help us??

We value your involvement, and want to work in partnership with your child and family throughout the kindy year.

There are numerous opportunities to be involved at Somerton Park Kindergarten. For example, you can volunteer your time to cook or garden with the children, read stories and books to the children.

We also go on excursions and requests for help will accompany permission forms when they come home.

There are a number of occasions when the children will bring activities home to share with family members.

Often during the holidays we need families to volunteer to water our gardens.

Occasionally we also have family information evenings with guest speakers - you will receive notification about this in your newsletter, or via email.

From time to time we have fundraising events where we may need your assistance. We may occasionally have working bees to help maintain our centre and save on the cost of employing people to do the work

We have a Governing Council, elected annually at an Annual General Meeting in March to assist in the decision making in the centre and to support the staff in their work in the kindergarten; you can be an active member of this committee.



Children' Programme

The staff team plan a programme of children's learning opportunities each fortnight. This is placed on the display board.

We plan our programme based on the national curriculum framework "Belonging, Being Becoming" and we work towards the Developmental Learning Outcomes as determined in the framework. We focus on numeracy, literacy and education for sustainability in our programme including well being, dispositions for learning and the development of life skills. The children's voice and educators observations also inform our programme.

To help us learn more about your child we ask you to fill in the Family Questionnaire which gives us additional knowledge and helps us to understand your child's needs.

There will be many opportunities for discussions with our educators about your child's progress. Please remember that you can also request a meeting about your child with staff at any time during the kindergarten year. At the end of your time at the kindergarten a summative report will be shared with you and passed on to your child's school.

Additional Needs

As we are funded by DECD [Department of Education and Child Development] we have access to Speech Pathologists, Psychologists, Social Workers, Aboriginal Workers, Special Educators and Bi lingual support. At times we also have access to Physiotherapy assessments. If you would like to access any of these services please speak to the Director

All children will be offered the opportunity to have their 4.6 years Child and Youth Health screening during their kindergarten year at here at Somerton Park Kindy. Should you wish to access CYHS at any time these services are displayed on our information board. There is also GP Plus Healthcare Centre located adjacent to the Marion Cultural Centre and Domain Medical Centre.

Playgroup

Playgroup is held on Friday from weeks 1-9 (excluding Public Holidays) at 9am – 11am and children are welcome at any age.

Fees are \$40.00 per term or \$5.00 per week per family.

Please supply a hat, drink bottle with water and a piece of fruit for your child/children.

Health Care information.

At Somerton Park we strive to create a safe, friendly and healthy environment for all of the children and staff.

For this to be successful we need the support of all of our families around the health needs of their children.

- If your child is obviously unwell please keep them home out of respect for others. Even if your child insists on coming you need to assure them that home is the best place when you are unwell.
- If your child has been prescribed antibiotics it is important that they do not attend kindergarten for 24 hours or more. This ensures that any adverse reaction can be dealt with at home and also enables your child to rest and recuperate.
- If your child is going to need any medication to be administered we **MUST** have a **signed health care plan from your doctor**-even for non-prescription drugs. This plan must be delivered to the staff.
- Please ensure that all medication is packed in to a small bag with your child's name on it and that this bag is given to staff.
- If your child is diagnosed with anything contagious please let us know as soon as possible so that we can let other families know.

As a site we keep a first aid log to document any accidents or first aid that occurs throughout the kindy day. The family member that collects the child will be informed of any such thing and required to sign off on it.

We all need to take responsibility for helping to create a healthy environment.

If you have any further questions please contact us.



How else can you help us?

By supporting us in our work with your child. This means supporting all of our policies- especially around hats and food. It especially means keeping us informed about any changes in your family which may be impacting on your child.

It also means supporting us in our activities i.e. Activities which we design for children and families as well as being involved and interested in what your child is doing. We use a variety of methods to communicate with you- newsletters, the whiteboard, special notes, slide shows, learning stories, email and a sticker which your child may wear home. However we will gather information from each of you regarding your preferred method of communication.

We have an open door policy which means that you can always request a conversation or meeting at any time during the year.

We will also have a designated fortnight where we will offer Student, Family and Educator Conversations (SFEC) so that collaboratively we can discuss your child's and family's expectations and experience at kindergarten.



Any questions?

The staff are always willing to have short discussions with you but if you need a longer time please make a time as we really do need to be focussed on working with the children while they are at kindergarten.

Sometimes issues may arise concerning your child or family situation and we are always ready to offer support in any way we can.

If we all work together we can build a wonderful future for our children.

"It takes a village to raise a child"

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to the community of Somerton Park Kindergarten. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

Thank you.

Laura, Paul, Amy, Helen, and Sue

Somerton Park Kindergarten

Phone: 8296 1503

Fax: 8377 1672

E-mail: dl.5669.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

Notes, Thoughts, Questions & other info.....