



Wandana
Preschool – Year 6

Respect • Belonging • Learning

Preschool Parent Information Booklet



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Our vision: Empowering our community to flourish in their relationships and learning.

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Wandana Preschool Philosophy Statement



Vision

Empowering our community to flourish in their relationships and learning

Our Pre School to Year-6 values of Belonging, Respect and Learning are at the core of our philosophy; they guide us in all that we do.

Preschool Philosophy

Wandana Pre-school is welcoming of all children and their families where individual learning needs and cultural backgrounds, and experiences are recognised, encouraged, supported, and celebrated.

We make meaningful connections with our aboriginal families and community members to support children's learning identity and belonging.

Working in partnership with families is important for children's learning and development. At Wandana we value and recognise families as children's first teachers, and aim to build on the learning each child has experienced within their family.

We encourage a sense of group identity and belonging by building nurturing and trusting relationships with each child. We support the development of their social skills with each other in a positive and respectful manner, enabling them to make decisions and consider fairness, empathy and compassion.

We empower children to develop as independent learners by working alongside of them; together we co-construct theories and allow for discovery and wonderings. We foster learning through a multiple range of open-ended hands-on play experiences that invites imagination, collaboration, possibility and challenge.

We are advocates for the benefits of Nature Play; we gain inspiration from nature play theories believing that children's learning occurs as much in the outdoor environment as it does indoors.

We offer a quality pre-school program which is underpinned and guided by The National Early Years Learning Framework, National Quality Standards and the Department for Education Early Learning strategy.

Welcome to Wandana Preschool

We look forward to getting to know you and your child, and would like to ensure that you have all the information that you need to make this a rewarding and exciting year. If you have any questions, queries, or suggestions, please feel free to have a chat with a member of staff at any time. We hope that you and your family will enjoy your child's very special first year of formal education as much as we enjoy watching them grow and explore their potential.

GOVERNMENT PRE-SCHOOL'S ENROLMENT POLICY

Our preschool has two major enrolment intakes each year, where children are eligible to access 4 terms of their full preschool entitlement (15 hours per week)

Children with Aboriginal and Torres Strait heritage and children under the Guardianship of the Minister are entitled to attend a preschool program for an average of 12 hours per week after their 3rd birthday.

If your child turns 4 before 1st May that year, they are eligible to commence their 15 hours of preschool education in term 1 of the same year (intake 1).

If your child turns 4 between 1st May and 31st October that year, they are eligible to commence their 15 hours of preschool education in term 3 of the same year (intake 2).

Early entry (for children prior to commencing preschool) will be available, subject to our capacity. Please contact us to see if your child is eligible for this session.

OUR SESSIONS

Our day is structured to provide children with plenty of opportunity to explore the indoor and outdoor learning environments, socialise, experiment and learn through their play. We provide children with plenty of opportunities to develop positive dispositions in towards learning.

We are currently operating as a part-time center where children attend two consecutive full days from 8:30am-3:30pm on Wednesday and Thursday and make up their remaining 1 hour on our half day Tuesday session 8:30am-12:30pm. Tuesday sessions occur 3x throughout the term. Look out for these important dates in your termly calendar.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	PLAYGROUPO 9:15am – 11:15am	WACKY WEDNESDAY 8:30am-12:30pm (10 sessions per year please check calendar for dates)	8:30am – 3:30pm	8:30am – 3:30pm

MATERIALS AND SERVICES CHARGES

A charge of **\$220 per year (\$55 per term)** is asked for each child. This is used to buy materials and resources, subsidize incursions and excursion costs and maintain the buildings and grounds so we can offer a safe, stimulating, pleasant environment in which your child can learn and develop. There may be further cost associated with incursions and excursions throughout the year.

Fees are payable at our front office (cash or credit card)

At the commencement of the preschool year you are able to purchase a new legionnaires hat for \$10 at the school front office. Legionnaires hats are a requirement at Wandana Preschool.

OUR PROGRAMME

Our planning is based on the “Belonging, Being and Becoming - Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)”, that all early childhood educators in Australia use to support their planning and curriculum development. EYLF is a play –based curriculum that outlines desired outcomes for children to work towards through their experiences at pre-school.

These outcomes are:

Children have a strong sense of identity

Children are connected with /contribute to their world

Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Children are confident & involved learners

Children are effective communicators

Staff use a term focus to guide the program and support the development of these outcomes. We are also required to report against the Department's Literacy and Numeracy indicators.

WHERE CAN I GET INFORMATION OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE PRESCHOOL

Regular information about what is happening in the preschool can be found via:-

- Seesaw App– we use Seesaw to communicate with our families on a daily basis.
- Term calendar – which will contain all the key dates for the term.
- Any other notes and letters in the children's individual information pockets—Parents are asked to clear them daily.
- Governing Council – we invite all families to join and have their voice heard.
- Term overviews—will contain the learning planned for the term
- Acquaintance night during term 1
- Notice boards will have copies of special notes and reminders
- School website www.wandanac7.sa.edu.au
- Facebook page—Wandana School, Preschool—Year 7



Preschool staff are always happy to answer and clarify any questions you may have about what is happening in the preschool.

SHARING INFORMATION WITH AND REPORTING TO FAMILIES

We aim to provide plenty of opportunities for families to visit the preschool through regular daytime, twilight and evening functions.

The children have a 'memory folder' which is a portfolio that contains documented experiences which illustrates the distance travelled by your child during their time at preschool. These are located at the entrance of the preschool available for viewing. Please note these folders are not to go home unless arranged with staff.

We also use Seesaw as a way to document your child's journey at preschool. Each child has their own online journal to which we will add photos and videos and document their learning to share with families. All data on Seesaw is safe and secure.

In addition to this and discussing your child's progress with you regularly, you can expect the following;

- Curriculum Overview (overview of learning expected to be covered each term)
- Acquaintance evening
- Termly Events/Celebration
- Family interviews -Formal family interviews are offered allowing all families an opportunity to discuss their child's progress.
- Farewell Ceremony/Graduation ceremony and celebration
- Statement of Learning— these are provided for all children at the end of their eligible year of preschool.

YOUR ROLE IN THE PRESCHOOL

You are always welcome to spend time with us, and we are very grateful for an extra pair of hands:

- To share with us cultural knowledge including customs, traditions and celebrations that you observe
- To work with individuals or small groups of children who need extra help
- To support us on excursions and with cooking experiences.
- To prepare resources for activities
- To join the parent sub-committee (supporter's group)
- To make newcomers feel welcome
- To participate in working bees and end of term clean ups to repair and maintain equipment.

We always need help to enhance our learning environment and get little jobs done. Any help the garden or tidying up is always appreciated.

We'd like our preschool to maintain our reputation for being a welcoming and friendly place and you can help to create that spirit with your contribution. Please talk to us about our volunteer program and requirements if you are interested.

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Our governing council meets twice a term to discuss what is happening in the school and preschool and how you feel about it. Meetings are an opportunity for you to share your suggestions as to how we can best meet the needs of the children in both settings. All are welcome at our meetings, which are advertised in the newsletter. Remember, it's your chance to have a say in the decisions made about your preschool!

PARENT'S VOICE

From time to time you will find a survey question or opinion/suggestion box where you sign in at preschool. This box provides you with the opportunity to have your say in what is happening in the preschool. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome so remember – your child will learn best when we work together.

WHAT TO PACK EACH DAY

We ask that you send the following items to preschool with your child each day

- A bag
- Their lunch bag/box with an icepack in it to keep their food cool.
- Fresh fruit, veggies, yoghurt or cheese and crackers for morning snack time.
- A healthy lunch, this can include sandwiches, wraps, pasta, rice or noodles.
- A change of clothes, including socks and underwear (this is very important)
- Their drink bottle filled with WATER ONLY

Please make sure all of the items are clearly labeled with YOUR CHILD'S name.

BRINGING TOYS FROM HOME

We cannot monitor or take responsibility for toys that are brought in from home. If your child wishes to bring in a toy from home, you and your child need to know that: - Other children will want to play with it so they need to be willing to share it with everyone – It may get broken – It may get lost. We request toys and items of value are not brought to preschool but it is a decision that you and your child need to make together.



YOUR CHILD'S LUNCH BOX

Our preschool encourages healthy eating; guided by the Right Bite Healthy Food and Drink Supply Strategy so we ask you to send healthy choices for your child to eat at meal times. Unhealthy snacks (sometimes foods) will be returned to your child's lunchbox to eat at home along with a reminder note.

This includes chips, lollies, fruit roll ups, cupcakes, chocolates, fruit drinks and sugary biscuits.

EXPLORING THE OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

We will be aiming to have the children learning in our outdoor environment every day.

We will avoid being outside in extreme weather conditions (see hot and cold weather policy located in our policy folder).

We understand that many families may be concerned about children playing outside in cooler weather. We know colds are more common in the winter months but cold weather itself doesn't increase the chance of getting a cold. Research shows that children spending time outside in nature has been shown to decrease anxiety, stress levels, and reduce symptoms of ADHD. Additionally, children who regularly play outside are healthier and have fewer colds.

Children will have access to outdoor play for as much of the day as is possible and safe. Children will have access to water, sand and mud play all year round.

It is important that children are dressed appropriately for outside play. Staff will assist children to manage their clothing. In the cooler weather we ensure children are changed into their spare clothes when finished exploring so they are comfortable.

MESSY PLAY—SAND, WATER & MUD

We understand that sand and mud play means children often bring dirt home with them (as educators we feel your pain as our houses are full of it as well). We are unable to restrict children from exploring the sandpit, water or mud as MUCH of the important, authentic learning, happens in this space. We often see children highly engaged and intellectually challenged exploring problem solving, construction, social interactions and mathematical concepts in these areas.

This type of messy play fosters learning in all developmental areas. It provides opportunities for children to experiment with math and science concepts, strengthen their physical skills, advance their social and emotional skills, and enhance language development

We understand that it takes effort managing sandy, wet and muddy clothes but we believe in the benefits of encouraging the children's interest and love of learning outdoors.



BENEFIT—RISK ASSESSMENTS

Children will be actively encouraged to challenge themselves and take risks as this promotes their sense of self as a capable learner.

Our rules and expectations are explained to children to ensure they are able to extend themselves in their learning.

We work with the children to learn new skills, to understand and take ownership of the rules and support them in their play.



WHAT TO WEAR TO PRESCHOOL

Children need to wear appropriate sun safe clothing that covers their shoulders. Clothing and shoes need to be appropriate for physical activity. Please make sure ALL items of clothing are LABELLED so lost property can be returned. At times your child will get dirty, so please dress them in suitable play clothes that are easily washed.

Dress children in clothes that they can manage themselves, i.e. Trousers that pull up easily, no belts, buckles or braces. We ask that you ensure that your child has an appropriate change of spare clothes packed in their back pack each time that they attend preschool.

All children are required to wear a Wandana School legionnaires hat whenever they are outside in term 1 and 4.

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to apply sunscreen before children come to preschool. If you forget sunscreen is available for parents to apply when your child arrives for the day.

We will assist children to reapply sunscreen throughout the day if permission from parents has been received.

At times of extreme hot weather we remain inside when the forecast is for 34C and over. During the wetter months we ask that families dress their child in clothing that allows them to explore the outdoor learning environment. This may include raincoats or rain jackets and rain boots.



WE ask that children are dressed suitably for hot cold and wet weather play



INCURSION/EXCURSIONS



We believe that children learn best through interacting with their world in a variety of ways, so we attempt to plan an incursion/excursion each term to give a deeper understanding of what we are currently learning about. Every effort is made to keep the cost down so that every child can participate in these important educational experiences. Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend excursions when possible. In the case of extreme weather excursions may be cancelled and rescheduled.

INDEPENDENCE

We encourage children to be independent in caring for their personal needs and belongings such as carrying own bag, putting shoes and hats on or in bags, changing wet clothes, opening and closing their own drinks and food containers, peeling their own fruit and determining when they need to go to the toilet. However, we do guide and support children in these learning experiences.

Research has suggested that encouraging these skills enhances children's self esteem as they gain much needed self-help skills for future development. This self-help is invaluable for when your child starts school.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are celebrated at preschool. Children have the opportunity to wear a birthday crown and be celebrated as we sing happy birthday and blow out candles.

Please let staff know if you are intending on supplying a birthday treat. Please keep in mind that some children have nut allergies and food needs to be NUT FREE. Please be mindful that we do encourage healthy eating at preschool.

CELEBRATIONS

We welcome celebrations that are significant to your child and family, and we would like to acknowledge these in ways that are appropriate and significant. We would like these and other celebrations at preschool to be meaningful and reflect the diversity of cultures. If there is anything that you and your family celebrate in the year, or if there are celebrations that you prefer your child not to be involved in, please let us know so that we can meet the needs of your child and your family.

ILLNESS AND ABSENCES

Children who are unwell are unable to enjoy and benefit from a preschool session and if they attend, they run the risk of spreading illness. Please keep your child at home if he or she is unwell. Do not let them choose if they are well enough for school.

Teach your child to blow their nose and encourage frequent hand washing. Should your child become unwell during the session, you will be contacted and asked to pick your child up from preschool. Please inform staff if a child has a contagious or infectious disease. For advice or to notify an infectious disease contact Communicable Diseases on 1300 232 272.

Please inform us via phone/Seesaw or email if your child will not be absent from preschool

PLEASE NOTE: A copy of your child's immunisation status MUST be provided on enrolment to the preschool AND each time they have a new immunisations.

DROP-OFF / PICK-UP POLICY

Please advise staff of your arrival if we are not at the door to greet you. You will find a sign in/ out sheet that you are required to fill out each day, with the correct times, on your arrival and when picking up your child.

It is important to note that preschool staff have other commitments at the end of the day. Therefore, it is important to **pick your child up by 3.30pm**. Children here after 3.30pm will be taken to the school office for collection. Alternatively you can book your child into the Out of School Hours Care by contacting the HAPPY HAVEN OSHC on 8155 5444.

If you are running late, please phone **8261 1699** to let us know, so we can reassure your child. The preschool has **very strict pick up conditions, for the safety of your child**. No one is able to take your child home, who is not listed on the enrolment form. If you make arrangements for someone else to collect your child, please let us know either by making note of it on the day sheet in the morning or phoning us. Please ask your substitute to bring a photo ID – this is a legal requirement.

SPECIAL NEEDS

We monitor children's development very carefully and seek advice from a variety of support agencies when the need for expert help arises. Referrals are only made in consultation with parents/caregivers.

If you have any concerns about your child's development, please do not hesitate to discuss these with a member of staff.

TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

Throughout the year there are many opportunities for your child to become familiar with the more formal and larger school environment, regardless if they will stay on at Wandana. There will be opportunities for your child to visit the Gymnasium for co-ordination sessions, visit the library for story-time and for borrowing books as well as participating in specialized sporting clinics as they visit the school.

Our preschool children will also experience playing out in the yard with the older school children, attend fortnightly whole school assemblies and participate in whole school events such as Sports Day, Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, Colour Explosion, Book Week and End of Year Concerts.



BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

We see behaviour as a developmental process and work with the children to gradually take responsibility for their own actions and choices, in line with our understanding of children's neurological development. We work together to create rules and expectations for behaviour which will keep all in our preschool safe and happy. These are often reviewed to make certain we all understand them.

PARENT COMPLAINT POLICY

We like to know about complaints as quickly as possible. We have a parent concern and complaint procedure that can help resolve complaints at different levels. Please don't hesitate to raise concerns with us, they will be dealt with quickly and confidentially.

[All our policies are available from the preschool parent area. Please ask staff if you would like to access them.](#)

PLAYGROUP

Our Playgroup is a popular part of the weekly program, serving as a meeting place for families with younger children. Children can learn and explore various activities under parental supervision.

Playgroup Details:

- **Day:** Tuesday mornings during the school term
- **Time:** 9:15 am - 11:15 am
- **Cost:** \$2.00 per session
- **Note:** Please bring a healthy snack for your child.

This is a great place to meet other parents and caregivers in a friendly atmosphere. All are welcome! For a playgroup calendar or any questions, please ask for Grace, our playgroup coordinator

PHONE CALLS

We request that telephone calls to the preschool during session time be for urgent matters only. It affects staff/child ratios when staff leave the children to answer the telephone. In school hours – between 8.30 am and 3.30 pm the front office staff are available to pass messages on to the preschool. You can always reach us via Seesaw.

We're very happy to welcome you to our preschool and look forward to getting to know you and your child. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have with us. This is YOUR Preschool and, **parents** are of the utmost importance to us! With your support and encouragement, it can be the best pre-school your child could ever need!

PRESCHOOL EDUCATORS

Teachers:

Daniela Gambaro (Early Years Coordinator)

Catherina Pedroza

School Services Officer

Ann-Marie Swinton

Kendal Battams

Grace Fratamico

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Principal: Robyn McLachlan

Deputy Principal: Silvia McMullen

Student Wellbeing Leader: Cuc Doan



WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR TIME WITH US AT WANDANA CHILD PARENT
CENTRE