

The History of our Preschool

Our Centre began as a parent-run Kindergarten in 1973. In 1977, the Kindergarten moved into the School as an Educational Department funded preschool. The name was later changed to Child Parent Centre which emphasised the important relationship between parent and child.

Child Parent Centres recognise that a parent is a child's first and most significant educator. It is the central task of teachers to support parents in that role of the educator. The Centres focus upon children learning through play. Thus, an important part of the teacher's role is to set up play situations which will assist the children to learn naturally and truly.

Child Parent Centres recognise that each child is unique and this uniqueness is shown through the child's intellectual capacity, background experiences and personality. As the Centre and the home are connected through the child, it is essential to ensure a continuous interaction between the two. Child Parent Centres cater for the differing needs of parents and children. They vary little from conventional Kindergartens except that they are an integral part of the Primary school, enabling continuity from the Child Parent Centre through to Year 7.

In Term 3 2011 the name was changed to Preschool. This change is intended to raise the profile and assist with recognition of school based preschool programs. Staffing, governance and all other existing functions remain the same.

Welcome

We welcome you and your child to our Karoonda Preschool and hope that your association with us will be a happy one. Karoonda Preschool offers sessional preschool education in the year prior to reception. We provide a safe, stimulating and caring environment that promotes learning through play and the opportunity for children to develop their social skills as they play. The Preschool is family orientated and we welcome your involvement. We believe that you as parents are the first and most significant teachers of your children. Your knowledge of your child's development is very important. The most effective learning occurs when home and preschool work together.

The Karoonda Preschool is a tobacco, alcohol and drug free environment.

Staff Team

Mr Daniel Rankine

Principal (Nominated Supervisor)

Mrs Sue Muster

Preschool Teacher (Certified Supervisor)

Mrs Natalie Koch, Mrs Karen Wegner, Ms Emily Zadow

School Services Officers

(All staff have been trained in child protection and are mandated notifiers of child abuse and neglect.)

Centre Times

Monday	8:30 am	-	12:00 noon
Tuesday	8:30 am	-	3:15 pm
Thursday	8:30 am	-	3:15 pm

On all days:

Recess	11:10 am	-	11:30 am
Lunch	1:00 pm	-	1:40 pm

Fees

The Preschool is funded according to how many full-time children are enrolled. As this is not enough to cover all expenses, we also request a contribution set by Governing Council of \$50.00 per child per term.



Attendance

Children may be enrolled at Preschool if they turn 4 prior to May 1st. Regular attendance is encouraged at Preschool in order for children to participate fully and gain maximum benefit. Routines established in early childhood lay a solid foundation for the schooling years.

Pre-Entry Children

One session per week for 3 weeks prior to beginning full-time preschool.

Full-Time Children

May attend all preschool sessions each week (2½ days) for 4 terms prior to beginning reception.

Transition To Reception

Transition children (due to begin Reception the following year) spend some time in the Reception room prior to being enrolled (several visits including 1 full day).

(From 2014 children may begin Reception at the beginning of the school year if they turn 5 prior to May 1st)

Collection of Children

Only parents and adults nominated by you on your enrolment form will be allowed to collect your child. Staff must be informed when someone different is collecting a child.



Nuts



We are a nut free school, please refrain from including nut products in your child's lunchbox (ie nuts, peanut paste, Nutella, muesli bars, etc).

Preschool Support

Following consultation between parents and the Preschool teacher, eligible children with additional needs (e.g. speech, behaviour) may receive additional support to enable meaningful participation in the Preschool program. Any concerns should be addressed as early as possible (ideally prior to enrolling at Preschool). Information on support services is available at the Preschool.



Personal Information

On enrolling your child, important information is passed onto staff and kept confidential, e.g. phone numbers, emergency contact and health information. If any of this information changes during the time that your child is at Preschool please notify the centre as soon as possible so records can be updated.

Communication Book

Each child receives a Communication Book in which the staff will write information regarding the child. Parents are encouraged to use it to provide the teacher with information about the child's home life and to write any notes about absences, illness, collection, etc.

Parent Roster

Parents/carers are invited to assist at the Preschool on a rostered basis. Rostered helpers must sign in at the Preschool. Parents are welcome to visit the Preschool at any time.



Newsletters

A school/community newsletter is produced once a week and a Preschool newsletter is produced when required.

Library

We visit the School Community Library on Thursday. We encourage parents to also become regular library users.



Your Child Should Bring

- ☺ A piece of fruit/vegetable (to be shared at Fruit Time)
- ☺ Drink bottle - named (Water only)
- ☺ A named book bag for borrowing from the Community Library
- ☺ Recess and lunch - lunches may be ordered from the canteen Please note that we are a NUT FREE school so refrain from sending any food containing nuts. Any perishable food may be stored in our refrigerator. For WHS reasons we are unable to heat food for children.
- ☺ School bag - a large backpack style is recommended – named
- ☺ Hat - The school's Sun Protection policy requires that all children must bring a wide-brimmed hat to be worn outside all year round. The hat will remain at the Preschool.
- ☺ Show & Tell - Children are rostered to bring one Show and Tell item on either Tuesday or Thursday.



Clothing

Please dress your child in hardwearing clothing including appropriate footwear (preferably sneakers or sandals) – all clothing should be named.

Parent Discussion Group

Committee:

President	:	Kylie Martin
Secretary	:	Tanya Roberts
Governing Council Rep:		Helen Veri

The committee meets with parents once a term and is involved in advising Preschool staff, maintaining grounds and buildings and fund raising. The AGM is held in term 4.

Buses

Children can travel to and from preschool on the school buses if there is an available seat. Please arrange this at the school office.



Illness at Preschool

If your child becomes unwell while at Preschool we will notify you or if unavailable your child's next emergency contact. Your child will be cared for until a parent or emergency contact can collect them. Unwell children should be kept at home in the best interests of other children and staff members to prevent the spread of infection. Please refer to the Preschool Exclusion Policy for details on recommended exclusion times for infections.

If your child requires medication while at Preschool, DECD policy requires us to have a health plan signed by a doctor informing us exactly when and how to manage medication of any type, (and we encourage you to time dosages outside preschool hours if possible). Please see staff about a Health Plan.



First Aid

All Preschool staff are trained in basic first aid procedures. In the event of your child having an accident that requires first aid you will be notified either by phone call, in person or a note in your child's communication book. In the event of your child requiring medical treatment you or your emergency contact will be notified via telephone. In the case of an emergency an ambulance will be called.



Grievances

At times, families may have grievances or concerns that need to be resolved. Usually a simple, confidential discussion with the staff member concerned will clarify the situation. If the situation is not resolved then please contact the principal.

Playgroup

An educator-led Playgroup is held weekly on Wednesdays 9:00 am – 10:30 am at the Preschool. Contact the school office for details.

Bootsie & Blossom

Our two Preschool teddy bears visit each Preschool child's home. Families are asked to include drawings, pictures and stories in their diary.

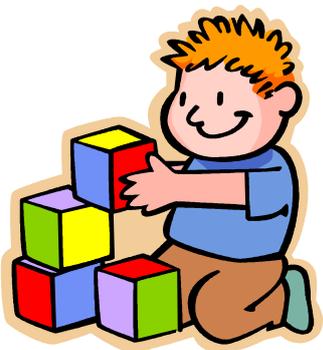


Parent Information

A general information area is located inside the Preschool entrance. Information available includes: support services (e.g. Murray Mallee Community Health Service); C&FHS; brochures on child development and the school dental clinic. 4 year old health checks are conducted by a C&FHS nurse during the year prior to a child beginning school. A folder containing all Karoonda Preschool Policies is located in the parent information area. A full list of DECD policies is located via a link on the Preschool computer to the DECD website – www.decd.sa.gov.au/policy/pages/OSPP/policy_index

Play is Learning

We believe that play is very important for children. Through play children explore and learn to understand the world around them as they come to communicate, imagine and create. When children play they are showing what they have learned and what they are trying to understand. For children, play is their work.



Assessment and Reporting

Staff regularly review children's progress during their time at the Preschool, based on observations, information from parents, interviews and work samples. This information is used when planning learning activities for individuals and groups of children and to monitor children's learning. At the end of their Preschool year your child will receive a Profile Book containing work samples, photos and learning stories. This book is available at the Preschool during the term for children and parents to view. A Summative Report is compiled for each child at the end of their Preschool year.

Karoonda Preschool

Philosophy

We believe:

That each child is a unique individual & learns & develops at their own pace

Children learn most effectively through play & hands on experiences

That working with families in partnership enhances children's learning & wellbeing

We aim to provide this by:

Ensuring children are safe, physically & emotionally

By providing an environment that is child orientated & reflects the children's voices, & is engaging & encourages risk-taking

Providing a variety of learning experiences appropriate to their developmental needs which supports the holistic development of a child – social, emotional, physical, intellectual

Being respectful of each individual & the family they come from (social, physical, gender, religion, race)

Encouraging caring relationships with staff, & other children

We aim to support parents/carers & families in their role as primary care givers & educators by:

Warmly welcoming them into our preschool, & providing a friendly, safe, caring environment in which parents can confidently leave their children
Sharing information with parents/carers about their children & the preschool program

Providing information about services for families & children

Reflecting the values of the diverse family & cultural backgrounds of individual children

We value involvement & participation a& encourage open communication

Valuing privacy & confidentiality

At Karoonda Preschool we value: Respect; Honesty; Success.

Vision

All students reach their full potential and develop skills for successful life-long learning

Preschool Program

Our curriculum, recording and reporting procedures are all based on **The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)**. This framework emphasises first hand experiences, the central role of play and quality interactions in young children's learning and development.

The Early Years Learning Framework describes childhood as a time of **belonging, being and becoming**.

Belonging is the basis for living a fulfilling life. Children feel they belong because of the relationships they have with their family, community, culture and place.

Being is about living here and now. Childhood is a special time in life and children need time to just 'be' – time to play, try new things and have fun.

Becoming is about the learning and development that young children experience. Children start to form their sense of identity from an early age, which shapes the type of adult they will become.

The Framework has five ***Learning Outcomes***:

Outcome 1:

Children have a strong sense of identity

Outcome 2:

Children are connected with and contribute to their world

Outcome 3:

Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

Outcome 4:

Children are confident and involved learners

Outcome 5:

Children are effective communicators

How can parents help their preschool child?

Talk to your child using adult terms/big words even if you think he/she may be too young to understand.

Listen to your child - encourage but don't force him/her to talk to you about his/her experiences.

Read and tell stories regularly, expose your child to different types of literature, repeating favourites many times.

Use questioning techniques to extend children's thinking and language development.

Regularly visit the Library with your children. Show your child how to handle and select books.

Let your child see that you enjoy reading by having books, magazines, etc at home.

Take your child to a variety of interesting places (galleries, zoos, shows, museums) to develop an understanding of their world.

Encourage your child to notice variations in things around him/her.

Provide a bright, stimulating environment for your child from the day he/she is born.

Let your child use his/her fingers and hands to develop skills of touching, feeling, moving eg playdough, blocks, finger painting, sand, water, construction activities. Keep plenty of paper and pencils, crayons, paints at home for your child to use.

Encourage your child to play with friends to develop self-confidence, sharing and co-operative play.

Keep your child well and rested. Take special care to correct sight, hearing or nutritional defects. Make known any medical problems to the teacher.

Any concerns about development (e.g. speech, coordination) should be addressed as early as possible.

Is My Child Ready for Reception?

It is important that parents regularly discuss their child's progress with the preschool teacher, especially when they are nearing their fifth birthday.

The following indicators should be taken into account when considering if your child is ready to begin Reception:

Social skills

- be able to share, take turns, co-operate, initiate and sustain social contact, abide by rules, demonstrate independence.

Communication skills

- be able to speak clearly, make feelings understood.

Intellectual skills

- be able to remember, recognise, differentiate, problem solve, distinguish between reality and fantasy, evaluate.

Motor skills

- have good control of gross motor skills (large body movements) eg skip, hop etc. and fine motor skills (small movements) eg trace, cut, thread etc.



Children do not have to reach a certain standard before beginning Reception but it is preferable if they can:

- recognise and write their name
- recognise and make the sounds of the individual letters in their name
- understand the concept of rhyme
- count to 10 and recognise some numerals
- recognise most colours.

