

Welcome to...

Wallaroo Preschool Centre



Family Information Book

Inspiring children to experience
play based learning that is
engaging and builds success for
life.

"Play to Learn"

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Wallaroo 5556

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Facebook: 'Wallaroo Preschool Families 2024'

We welcome you to Wallaroo Preschool Centre.

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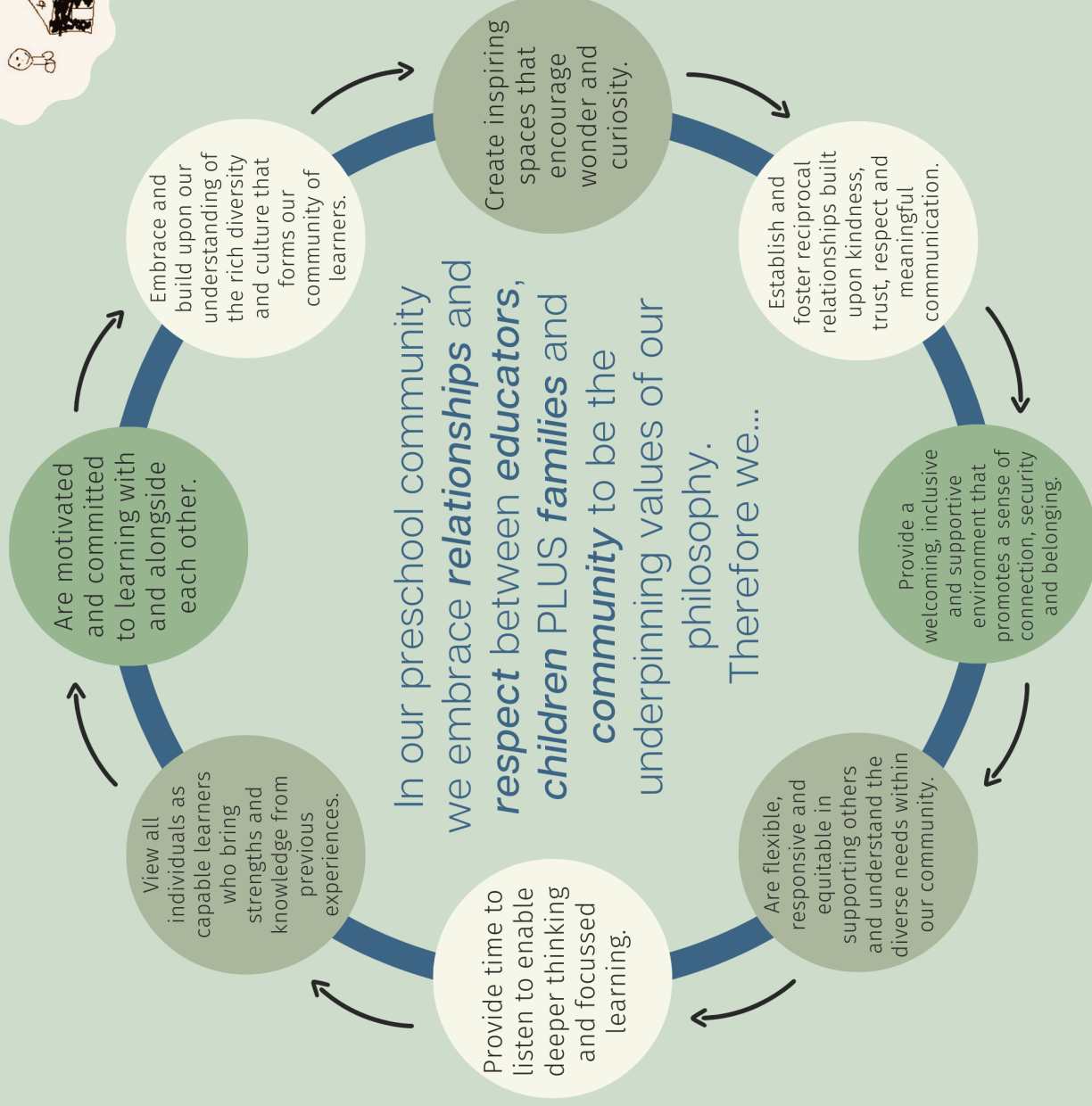
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WALLAROO PRESCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Our philosophy is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics, the National Quality Framework and the Principles, Practices and Learning Outcomes of the Belonging, Being & Becoming Early Years Learning Framework.

We live on Nharangga Land.
We play and learn on Nharangga Land.
We thank the Nharangga People for sharing their land with us.



We thank our families, children and educators for their input on this review dated February 2023.

Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice

Preschool is a very important time in your child's life. During their time here at Preschool children develop so many different skills. At Wallaroo Preschool our educators work alongside the children, supporting them to develop their social, emotional, creative, physical and intellectual development.

Starting Preschool

Children are eligible to start Preschool in January 2024 if their birthdate is between 1st May 2019 and 30th April 2020. Children born 1st May–31st October 2020 may choose to begin in Term 3 2024 for mid-year intake. It is a Department legal requirement for us to see proof of age (birth certificate, Centrelink document or Passport) and your child's up to date immunisation status before your child commences preschool. With new Department Policy being introduced in 2016, enrolment priority will be given to children living in the local Wallaroo area.

Days and times of Preschool

Wallaroo Preschool is open Monday–Friday. Children attend two days one week, three days the next, totalling 30 hours per fortnight. Our session times are Monday–Thursday, 8:45am–2:45pm. Please adhere to our session times as our educators require time to set up the learning environment, program and document children's learning and sometimes exchange confidential information. If you will be late picking up your child, or some one else will be collecting them, please ring or text the preschool to let us know so we can tell your child that you are on your way. We ask that your child attends Preschool regularly. Routine is very important for all children and regular attendance will support the transition from home to Preschool, as well as set up good habits for school attendance. Please contact the preschool via the landline or texting the mobile if your child is away.

Learning at Preschool

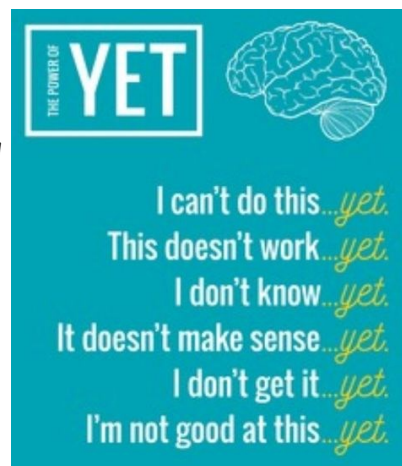
At Preschool we support your children to develop skills and dispositions that will prepare them to be powerful learners and successful in life...not only in preparation for school. We know children in the early years learn best through **play**. At Wallaroo Preschool our environment and educators offer provocations for children to wonder, notice, inquire and share their own ideas and theories. As educators, we ponder with the children and encourage them to be thoughtful as we purposefully question and stretch their thinking, rather than tell the children the answer.

Our preschool values of *Kindness* and *Respect* strengthen children's emotional and social development and this is the basis for how we support children as they develop connections with other children and as they explore new environments and experiences.

We use the Early Years Learning Framework v.20 (EYLF) when reflecting on children's interests and plan for experiences that will extend their wonderings and capabilities.

This is done in conjunction with the Department Numeracy and Literacy Indicators to track children's development in these areas.

Each child will have their own individualized curriculum decision relating to their strengths and next steps.

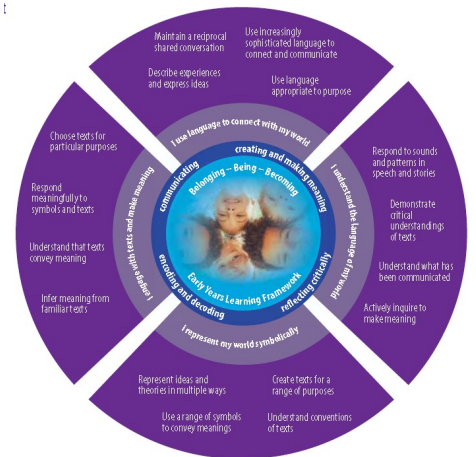


Statements of Learning and Documentation

Each day educators observe the child and the learning they experience. We value the collaborative play children experience as we know children learn alongside and with others. You will receive a Statement of Learning when your child graduates from preschool showing your child's growth and learning over time. Children's ongoing learning is shared with you in many other ways including end of day conversations, photos, Facebook posts, on our programming documents and through documentation sent home. With each piece of documentation, you will be asked to share your thoughts and ideas which then contributes to our cycle of planning.

Literacy

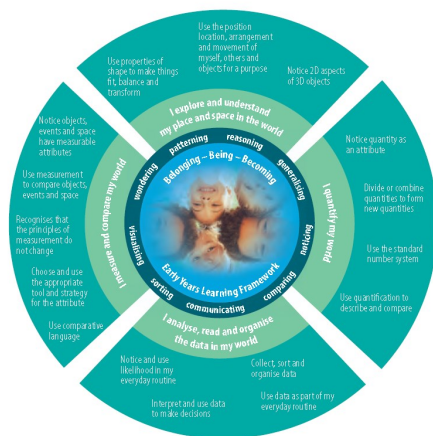
Literacy is something that each of us use in our daily life and is a vital part of your child's overall development. Literacy is most commonly understood as reading and writing. But before children can read and write, they need to learn about sounds, words, language, books and stories. Your child will be engaged in experiences that develop their Literacy skills each and everyday at Preschool. These will include opportunities for music, movement, dance, storytelling, visual arts, media and drama, as well as talking, reading and writing.



Bookmaking

At Wallaroo we engage in the pedagogy of 'bookmaking'. We encourage children to be authors and use illustrations and "four year old writing" to write their book. You will notice that the educators do not write in or 'mark' the book, it is the child's book and respectfully not our place to write on their things, just as we wouldn't want them to write on our work. This also means that as the author, children can retell, edit and improve their book each time they share it with someone. Please note that teaching your child to read and write is not our immediate focus. There are many steps that need to happen before formal reading and writing can occur successfully and as children move along the developmental continuum of reading and writing our educators will support and stretch their learning in the next developmentally appropriate step.

Numeracy



As with Literacy, we all use Numeracy each and everyday in many areas of our lives often without even being aware that's what we are doing. Numeracy helps us to make choices, solve problems, understand patterns and respond to day to day challenges. Numeracy is so much more than counting and numbers. At Preschool children are supported to interact with, and develop their understanding of mathematical ideas, concepts and vocabulary through play. This ensures their learning is meaningful and relevant to their current interests and understanding.

Poem: There's Nothing in my Bag today

(Author unknown)

There's nothing in my bag today.

Today I did my Math and Science – I toasted bread.

I halved and quartered, counted, measured, used my eyes, ears and head.

I added and subtracted on the way, I used the magnet blocks and memory tray.

I learnt about a rainbow and how to weigh. So please don't say,

"Anything in your bag today?"

You see I'm learning as I play, I learn to listen and speak clearly when I talk.

To wait my turn, and when inside to walk.

To put my thoughts into a phrase, To guide my crayon through a maze.

To find my name and write it down, To do it with a smile and not a frown.

To put my pasting brush away, So please don't say,

"What, Nothing in your bag today?"

I've learnt about a snail and a worm, Remembered how to take my turn.

Helped a friend when he was stuck, Learned that water runs off a duck.

Looked at words from left to right, Agreed to differ, not to fight.

So please, don't say, "Did you only play today?"

Yes I played the whole day through, I played to learn the things I do.

I seek a problem, find a clue, and work out for myself just what to do.

My carer sets the scene and stands nearby, To help me when I really try.

They are there to pose the problems, and to help me think.

I hope they'll keep me floating, and never let me sink.

All this is in my head, and not in my bag.

It makes me sad to hear you say, "Haven't you done anything today?"

When you attend your meetings and do your work today,

I will remember not to say to you.

What, nothing in your bag? What did you do today?"

Children are capable and confident

For our children to be successful in life we need to view them as competent individuals. That starts with giving them responsibilities and expectations. They **CAN** do it!

How you can support children with this:

Encourage them to get dressed in their Kindy clothes by themselves.

Encourage your child to carry their own Kindy bag in to Preschool and teach them to unpack it by themselves. They need to learn to put all their things away each morning so they know where to find them during the day.

Encourage your child to contribute to their lunch box and be aware of what is in it.

As a parent your child develops trust and respect for your decision making and the safe boundaries you instill. Give them the opportunity to make small choices to develop their confidence and decision making skills. For example: set up a drawer of Kindy appropriate clothing and they can choose from that drawer what they will wear to Preschool. Offer a range of healthy choices for their lunch box and they can choose what they would like each day.

What to do if you have questions about your child's development?

If you have any queries, concerns or thoughts about your child's development please speak to one of your child's educators. As a parent, you know your child best and we appreciate any information you can offer us. The first years of life are the foundation for all later growth, development and learning so this is the best time to initiate any extra support your child might need for their speech, learning, behaviour or social development. We have access to a range of services such as Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, and work collaboratively with these providers to support your child's development in the best possible way. Please speak to one of our educators if you have any concerns – nothing is too small to be concerned about!

Child Protection Curriculum

As required by the Department for Education all sites and services in South Australia must offer the Child Protection Curriculum 'Keeping Safe'. Our educators have received specific training to be able to teach this curriculum. There are four themes that develop children's understanding in a developmentally appropriate way. The themes are: The Right to be Safe; Relationships; Recognising and Reporting Abuse; and, Protective Strategies. The Child Protection Curriculum is embedded in our Preschool programming and intentional teaching moments throughout the day.

Excursions and Local Walks

At times Preschool children take part in local walking excursions to various places in Wallaroo, such as the library, beach, Star of the Sea or local shops. These excursions will require additional signed consent. Whilst excursions are a part of our learning, for larger excursions we will ask families to contribute money towards entrance fees, tickets or buses depending on where we are going. We also may ask for parent support to come along and engage with the children's learning on excursions. Excursions are purely curriculum related and will be organised by our educators.



Beach Kindy

We are so fortunate to be within walking distance of such an accessible natural beach environment. Our Centre will continue our Beach Kindy program in 2023, where children will visit the beach regularly with a small group of children and educators. Beach Kindy supports children to develop curiosity, wonder, connections to nature, resilience and oral language along with so many other important dispositions for learning! You will receive further information about our Beach Kindy program during the year.



Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

Your child's health and safety is paramount. For this reason we have many Policies and Procedures that we follow and ask families adhere to during your time here at Wallaroo Preschool. All educators are required to have accredited First Aid including CPR, Asthma and Anaphylaxis training. We will call an ambulance in case of any medical emergencies. Families are required to provide correct and current medication plans and medication prior to commencement at the preschool.

Hat and Sunsmart Policy

Our centre is a sun-smart centre. It is our policy that **all children and educators wear hats and clothing that covers shoulders** for outside learning when the UV is 3 or above. Please provide a **named hat everyday**. We encourage all children to have a broad brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style hat. Caps are not appropriate. Hats are available from Preschool for \$10. Please apply SPF 50+ cream before Preschool when the UV is 3 or above. Educators will support children to reapply again before lunchtime. We use the 'SunSmart' app developed by the Cancer Council and Bureau of Meteorology to check the UV levels each day. It's free, you can use it too!



Clothing at Preschool

"MESSY PLAY ALLOWS CHILDREN TO BUILD, IMAGINE, EXPERIENCE, INVESTIGATE, EXPLORE, CREATE, OBSERVE, PREDICT AND USE THE SENSES."

Our learning is often **messy** at Preschool! Please ensure your child is wearing suitable clothing to engage with our learning experiences including running, climbing, exploring, sand, water and mud play, gardening, cooking, painting and gluing.

We ask you provide a full change of weather appropriate clothes each day so children have a set of clean dry clothes to change into if they need or choose. We also encourage you to send rain jackets and gumboots during the winter months so children can continue their learning, regardless of the weather!



Please name all of your child's items so they can find their way home to you. We do have a "lost property area". Please check this if you think you have lost something.

We have great hats, t-shirts and jumpers for sale all with our Preschool logo on them. Please see our educators if you are interested in purchasing.

Current research highlights the benefits of children going barefoot.

At Wallaroo Preschool children are able to take off their shoes throughout the day as they choose, to play indoors or outdoors. Children store these on the 'shoe shelf' and are encouraged to learn to put them on independently at the end of our day.



Arrival and Departure

You will need to sign your child in and out each day at the entrance of our Preschool. If you have arranged for someone else to collect your child you must let an educator know and write it in the 'notes' section on the roll. We will only let your child leave with another adult if we have been informed and they may be required to provide ID on collection.

We always encourage family members to say goodbye to their children. Upset children will only develop further trust issues and become more distressed if their parents sneak away. See your child engaged in a learning experience or settled with one of our educators before you leave and always tell them you are going so that they do not suddenly miss you and become upset. If you are concerned about your child becoming upset please make sure you let one of our educators know so we can support you both at this time.

Preschool bags

Please ensure that your child brings a named bag that is large enough to keep their belongings safe. These bags are kept in the lockers, please let your child put their bag away each morning so they remember where to find it throughout the day.

Preschool Library

Children are welcome to borrow books to read at home from our Preschool Library. Please ensure your child has a clean, named library bag they can use to transport their books between home and preschool. We encourage families to borrow books with their child. An educator can help you to use our borrowing system.

Head Lice

Please check your child's hair regularly and ensure your child does not attend Preschool with untreated head lice. Children can return once effective treatment has commenced. Families will be notified if there is a case of head lice at Preschool. Please see our Head Lice Policy for further information.

Illness

Please do not send your child if they are unwell as illnesses can be passed to other people. This includes a bad cough or a heavily running nose. If you have a query as to whether your child should remain home please contact the Preschool, visit www.sahealth.sa.gov.au or call Health Direct Australia 1800 022 222. Please text or call preschool to let us know why your child is away as we are required by law to advise other families when there have been cases of some illnesses. Your child's identity will remain unknown to others. If you or your child's siblings are unwell please consider how you can reduce or avoid time in the Centre such as arranging to meet an educator by the gate or front door to minimize the risk of sharing your illness to other children, families and educators.

Emergency Procedure

We have regular emergency evacuation and invacuation practices. We talk to the children about what an emergency is and what responsible action we need to take if one occurs. A decision will then be made by our educators whether or not we evacuate. Please see our Emergency Procedures Policy at each exit for procedures.

Bushfire Season and Extreme Weather Events

Our Centre is not identified as one at risk in case of a bushfire. On 'catastrophic' bushfire days our centre will remain open unless otherwise informed. We do however have a bushfire plan if we do need to evacuate. In the case of an extreme weather event (storm, flood etc.) you are able to make the choice to keep your child at home if you consider it not safe to travel to/from Preschool. In the unlikely event the Preschool needs to close due to extreme weather circumstances every effort will be made to notify families through phone calls, texts or social media.

Food at Preschool

Our preschool is following the Division of Responsibility in eating at preschool. This is an evidence-based approach to help your child maintain a lifelong skill of listening to their hunger and fullness cues, and develop a positive relationship with all foods. In this approach, we ask families to provide a lunchbox containing a range of core foods including grains, fruit, vegetables, dairy and other protein foods (like meat, fish, eggs, beans, tofu and seeds). We will support your child to eat as much as they need to feel full, choosing freely from the foods you have provided.

At preschool your child will have both morning food and lunch. Families are asked to provide food for both of these meal times in separate containers. Please see our 'Food Policy' for further information.



This size lunchbox fits well in our fridge. Please ensure your child's name is on the outside of their lunchbox for easy recognition. Before selecting a lunch box, please check your child can open it independently or have a really great try...we can always help but some lunch boxes are so tricky they prevent independence.

We are an allergy aware preschool. **For the duration of the 2024 year Wallaroo Preschool is NUT FREE due to a child enrolled with ANAPHYLAXIS to NUTS. Please do not send nut products to preschool.**



Morning Food

At preschool children eat their morning food at a time that suits them, when they are hungry. This supports them to develop independence, self-reliance and responsibility and it prevents disruption in their very valuable learning time.

- Each morning children place their **named** food in our esky (masking tape & textas available for naming).
- Educators support children to wash their hands, recognise and find their morning food in the esky and remain seated whilst eating.



Lunch time

Lunch time is usually around 12pm and all children sit down to eat together with their educators. This is an important time where we encourage a sense of belonging to a group, conversations, independence and environmental sustainability. We encourage the children to dispose of their rubbish and scraps thoughtfully and respectfully in the correct bin.

- We encourage you to think about the environmental impact of food packaging and use reusable/recyclable containers where possible.
- It is a good idea to pack one 'main' item such as a sandwich or wrap and then add some extras such as fresh fruit, veggie sticks, cheese or yogurt. Include your child in the decision making process by giving them choices about what to pack, i.e. 'Would you like grapes or strawberries today?'
- We are unable to reheat food for children at Preschool. If you are sending leftovers for lunch please ensure your child will eat them cold. Maybe you could consider a thermos with a preheated lunch?

Water

- Please send a **named** water bottle each day.
- **Water** is the only acceptable drink for drink bottles and fresh water is always available for children to refill their bottles.




dr. kyla
PAEDIATRIC
DIETITIAN

Healthy and Safe School Mealtimes

Applying the Division of Responsibility at school

During School Hours:

- Parents and caregivers are responsible for **what** food is provided to eat at school
- Teachers & schools are responsible for **when** and **where** food is eaten, plus the **emotional environment** around food
- Children are responsible for **whether** and **how much** they are going to eat



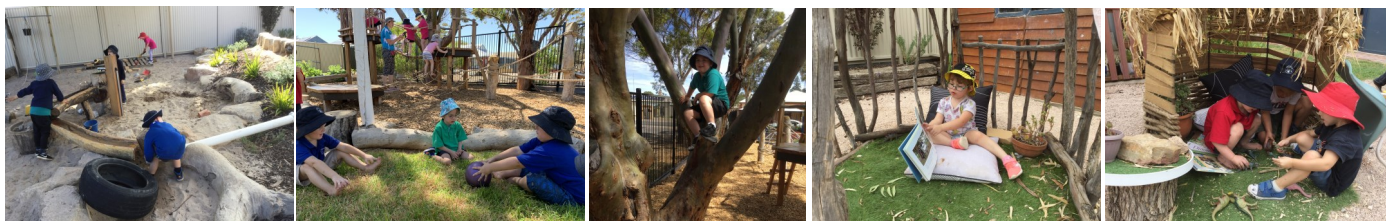
Supporting children to become confident, adventurous eaters
www.mealtimes.com.au/

Quality Area 3: Physical Environment

Outdoor Learning Environment

We set up our learning environment to cater for many different learning styles. Throughout the day children can access both the indoor and outdoor learning environment. We know children learn best when they have access to a variety of resources, both natural and man made to support their learning. At Preschool the children use 'loose parts' such as sticks, rope, cable reels, bricks and pipes, along with tools including hammers, scissors, drills and low-melt glue guns to build upon their learning. Using these resources encourages creativity, problem solving, resilience and persistence. We are constantly changing and improving our learning environments so please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions.

We do rely on parent support to help with busy bees and small maintenance jobs. This means we can put more of our budgeted money into learning programs for your children. Please let us know if you have any skill that you could help us with.



Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements

The NQF regulations require there to be suitably qualified educators on site at all times. Currently the ratio is 1 educator to 10 children. All our regular educators hold approved early childhood education qualifications, including university teaching degrees or diplomas of children's services.

Quality Area 5: Relationships with Children

All the educators at our preschool are in this profession for one reason, we love working with children and supporting them in their learning.

Educators have a variety of roles at our Preschool. You will see us observing children, working in small groups, interacting with children, taking observations, having conversations with children, reading stories with the children, playing with children, taking photos, supporting other educators, talking to parents, meetings with Department personnel, scaffolding children's learning (helping them learn the next step), modeling children's learning (showing them the next step), facilitating children's play, providing 'props' for their game/learning, helping children set up a play area, mediating with children, helping children join in and having fun!



Quality Area 6: Collaborative Partnerships with families and communities

We know families are the most important people in their children's lives. We also know that great relationships with families result in a really positive time at preschool for their child. We love having families engage in their children's learning while they are at Preschool. We also love having lots of involvement with our local community.

The Common Approach

Our educators have attended training in using 'The Common Approach'. We will be using 'The Common Approach' to support us to work together with you to build relationships and identify the strengths of your child and family. You may have seen how this works if you have already had a family chat with one of our educators.

Communication

We have many ways available for you to communicate with preschool. Please refer to the information below if you are unsure how to get in contact with us. Of course please always feel welcome to approach our educators for a quick chat at drop off or pick up time to share any information you think is relevant to your child's day at preschool.

Phone: 8823 2389 (Preschool Landline)

We do our best to answer the phone throughout the day, however often we are busy with the children and are unable to answer. Please leave a voice message and we will return your call (if necessary) at our earliest opportunity.

This is best for:

- When you need to speak with a staff member. If it is not urgent we recommend calling before/after kindy sessions as we will have more time to speak with you.
- Letting us know someone different will be collecting your child who is not listed as an emergency contact on their enrolment form (they will need ID).
- Leaving a message on the answering machine (e.g. you are running late, your child is away etc).

Text: 0475 697 917 (Preschool mobile phone)

Our educators check this phone where possible during the day and will read text messages, however we are often unable to reply. If you need a timely response or the matter is urgent please phone the landline (as above). Please do not expect a reply outside of business hours.

Please do not ring this number.

This is best for:

- Texting to let us know why your child is absent.
- Texting to let us know someone else will be collecting your child (must be on child's enrolment form as an authorised person).
- Texting us a photo of something your child would like to share.
- Texting to let us know general information that does not require a response (e.g. You will be attending the AGM).

Please note that we have an automated text messaging system we sometimes use to send bulk texts to all families. Please DO NOT reply to these. All responses can be sent to the usual mobile on 0475697917.

Email: dl.6640.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

Emails are monitored regularly and are a great way to keep in touch. Please be aware you may not get a response whilst we are teaching or outside of business hours.

This is best for:

- Making an appointment to speak with one of our educators.
- Sending information relating to your child (e.g. a family photo or paediatrician report).
- Letting us know non-urgent information (e.g. your child will be away on a family holiday).

Wallaroo Preschool Families 2024 (Private group)

This is a wonderful space to stay up to date with what is happening at preschool. Our educators will post reminders, photos, upcoming events etc. to this page. Please ensure your 'notifications' for our group are turned on so you don't miss any important information.

This is best for:

- 'Liking' or commenting positively on posts and photos (this also helps us to know who has seen our reminders).
- You are welcome to 'post' to this page if you think it will be relevant to all families (admin will approve relevant posts or contact you personally).

We remind everyone to please not contact our educators via their personal Facebook profile/Messenger. We have many other appropriate methods of communication for you to use to communicate with preschool.

Website: Our website has information of operating times, newsletters and policies. Check it out at www.wallaroopre.sa.edu.au

Whiteboard: We have a large whiteboard and notice board at the entrance of the Preschool. **Please read this each day** as there is lots of important information to share on a daily basis.

Individual note trays: Please check these daily to stay up to date. Please remind others who do pick up/drop off (Grandparents, family, friends, day care providers, etc) to check these on your behalf as you may miss out on important information or opportunities.

Newsletters: These come out during the term and include a variety of information. Please read these and take note in particular of the diary dates. They will keep you informed of our events at the Preschool. A current copy is also found on our front notice board.

Wallaroo Preschool Centre Facebook Page: This is a public page and we post regularly on this page. Please note this inbox is not monitored regularly and is not a way for our enrolled families to contact us.



Playgroup

Playgroup is held Friday 9:30–11:30am and is run by volunteer parents in collaboration with our educators. All families are welcome and encouraged to attend. The first visit is free with subsequent visits a gold coin donation and there are no ongoing membership fees. For further information please see one of our educators.

Local Schools/Transition

We have great relationships with all our local feeder schools. We visit them often, as well as them visiting us. During your child's last term of Preschool they will take part in a transition program. You will need to decide which school you intend to send your child to and complete the school registration form we will provide you. This is so we can communicate with the school, along with sharing any information that is necessary to ensure success for your child. This is one way of supporting your child as they move from Preschool to school.

Support Services

If you are at all concerned about your child's development [speech, language, emotional, physical, learning, social, behavioural etc.] please have a chat with an educator. We will put you in touch with people who provide support services to help you and your child. We have access to speech pathologists, Occupational therapists, community health, Autism SA plus many more.

Cafts Checks

The Child and Family Health Nurse is based in Kadina and will complete all four year old health checks by ringing to book an appointment on 1300 733 606. We recommend CAFHS as an avenue to discuss any developmental concerns you may have about your child.

OSHC (Out of School Hours Care) and Childcare

Wallaroo Primary School and St Mary Mackillop school both offer OSHC services and do a pick up from our preschool. Please contact them directly to enquire or make a booking for your child.

Wallaroo Primary School OSHC: 0428 280425

St Mary Mackillop School OSHC: 8823 2549

Community Kids Childcare Centre (Long Day Care): Phone 8821 1125

Kadina Childcare Centre (Long Day Care): 8821 3709

Copper Coast Libraries

The Copper Coast Libraries offer many services you might like to access for your child/ren.

The Wallaroo Library is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am–3pm and Wednesday 12pm–5pm.

Kadina Library is open 9am–5:30pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 9–8pm Thursday and 9–12 Saturdays.

Kadina Library also offers the following services:

- Toy Library is available during all opening hours.
- *Wriggle and Giggle Time* is held 10:30am on Tuesdays (toddler/preschool)
- *Rhythm and Rhyme* is held 10:30am Thursday during term time (ages 0–5).
- *Storytime* is held each Friday morning 10:30am (2–4 year olds)

Contact 8821 0444 for further information.

Star of the Sea

Star of the Sea is a Nursing Home located just up the street from us on Elizabeth Street. In the past we have visited the Star of the Sea nursing home to read with, sing to, play games with and do craft with the elderly. This is an excellent opportunity for children to develop empathy, communication skills, persistence, confidence and develop knowledge of the community and how the world works. Whilst Covid-19 has restricted this in recent years, we hope we may be able to recommence our visits in the future.

How can you help?

These are **your** children and this is **your** Centre and we are all working together to provide the very best caring and learning environment for them.

You can help your child by talking with them about anything and everything, play with them, have fun with them, love them, read lots of stories and talk about what is happening. Be interested in them as an individual and respect their thoughts, feelings and opinions. You can also help by spending time at the preschool.

You can help to do this by:

- Staying during session time. You are welcome to stay and contribute in any way that you feel most comfortable. This provides an excellent opportunity for us to get to know each other and your interest is always appreciated.
- Attending with your child on local walks, beach kindly and excursions.
- Attending functions organised at the Centre.
- Becoming a Governing Council Member and helping with fundraising, social activities, policy review and maintenance of the Centre and grounds.
- Help is also greatly appreciated at the end of each term and once per year each family will be rostered to do the Kindy washing.
- Offering your interests, skills and help in other areas such as cooking, gardening, singing, reading stories etc. with small groups of children.

Your interest and involvement in your child's learning is always greatly appreciated.



Quality Area 7: Governance and Leadership

Our Centre is a State Government Preschool, operated by the Department for Education. We are funded by the Department according to our numbers of enrolments and complexity.

As part of the National Quality Framework, we adhere to the National Quality Standards to provide the best learning environment for you and your child. The National Quality Framework is set by ACECQA (Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority) which is our regulatory authority. It is a legal obligation that we follow all rules and regulations as set by the Department for Education and ACECQA. You may have noticed this booklet is set up in the 7 Quality Areas. Centres are assessed on a regular basis to ensure they are meeting all these standards and regulations.

You may read or hear about:

NQF: National Quality Framework

NQS: National Quality Standards

PQIP: Preschool Quality Improvement Plan (our plan to continually improve)

Each year we need to review our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and set improvement priorities to continually improve our pedagogy and practice. All sites are assessed and rated as a part of an ongoing cycle of review to see how well they are meeting standards.

In 2015 Wallaroo Preschool was assessed and we were awarded the highest rating of 'Exceeding'.

For more information go to:

www.acecqa.gov.au or <https://www.education.sa.gov.au>



Governing Council

A Governing Council is elected at the beginning of each year to support the Director and oversee the running and decision making processes of the centre. The council is elected at the beginning of each year at the AGM (Annual General Meeting). All families are encouraged to attend our AGM and join our Governing Council. Please consider being involved.

Payment of Fees and other money

Our curriculum is solely funded by the fees from families. Fees are approved by our Governing Council annually. For children who attend full time Preschool fees are currently \$360.00 for four terms of preschool. You will receive an invoice for this in your child's first term at preschool. If you have difficulties paying fees you will need to arrange a payment plan with the Director. Centrepay is offered where fees can be deducted from Centrelink benefit payments. Forms for this are in your enrolment packs. Families can apply for this on enrolment or at any stage throughout the year. We accept cash, direct debit, EFTPOS or Centrepay for fees.

BSB: 105-020 Account Number: 102023540

CRN (CentrePay): 555 113 639K

When making cash payments please put correct money in a clearly marked envelope with your child's full name and payment details on the front and hand directly to an educator. Educators will double check the amount enclosed and write you a receipt. We now also have EFTPOS available.

Parent Opinion Survey

We are required to send out a survey each year to obtain how well we are meeting the needs of our preschool community. This can be completed on-line or on paper. When these are handed out we would really appreciate your support and time in filling it out. We will often also send out other short surveys or questionnaires for you to complete. These support us in our improvement planning.

CHECKLIST: Are you ready for Preschool?

- ☐ Enrolment form completed, including signed consents.
- ☐ Proof of age (birth certificate, Centrelink letter).
- ☐ Current and up to date Medicare Immunisation History Status provided.
- ☐ Family Chat booked.
- ☐ A bag that your child can open.
- ☐ Lunchbox and separate 'morning food' container that your child can open.
- ☐ Change of clothes.
- ☐ A hat.
- ☐ Water bottle.
- ☐ Labelled medication plus medication plans?
- ☐ Is everything named?



Great, now you are ready to go!!

Tips for adults:

Some children may seem apprehensive about starting preschool. Please try to avoid repeating their concerns to others within earshot of them. Children will sense and replicate your feelings. If you say, "They don't really want to go to Preschool" then they will think that it's what they are supposed to continue thinking. Acknowledge their feelings and provide something for them to look forward to: "I know you're feeling a bit nervous/scared/shy because preschool is a new experience for you. There will be lots of things for you to do and explore and we will meet your teachers who can help you feel safe and brave".

First day drop off hints for families:

1. Always give warning you are about to leave: "I am going to leave after we complete this puzzle together..." (then go after that puzzle)
2. Always say goodbye. "Bye Darling, I love you. Have a great time and I will pick you up this afternoon once you've had a play..."
3. Make your day sound boring...no coffee and movies for you! You are going home to get some jobs done.
4. Once you have decided to leave, follow through with your decision, (you can leave your child with an educator) with a big smile and a wave!