

Balharry Memorial Kindergarten  
Information Booklet



**Centenary Avenue,**

**P.O. Box 101,**

**Lucindale S.A. 5272**

**Kindergarten building Ph.87662139**

**Rural Care building Ph.87662222**

**Fax. 87662108**

**Email: [dl.6502.admin@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.6502.admin@schools.sa.edu.au)**

***'Children are at the centre of everything we do'***



**Government of South Australia**

Department for Education and  
Child Development

Your child will start kindergarten on .....

And will attend.....

**Important phone numbers**

Emergency Services 000

Poisons Information Line—131126

Naracoorte Lucindale Council—87601100

Lucindale Council Office- 87662002

Lucindale Area School—87662084

Lucindale Health Clinic –87662656

Department of Education and Child Development –Murray Bridge Regional Office – Phone 08 87245300

Educational Director—Stan Hagias

## Junk to collect

Please collect and send in:

Boxes – small and large (not washing powder please)

Gladwrap/ foil cardboard rolls

Foam plates                      Magazines

Material                          Corks

Wool                                Cards

Wood for woodworking      Bottle tops

Buttons                          Wrapping paper

Cotton reels                      Paper bags

Margarine, small yoghurt, cream containers

## Our favourite play dough recipe

4 cups plain flour

4 teaspoons cream of tartar

2 cups salt

4 cups hot water

4 tablespoons oil

food colour

Mix dry ingredients. Add oil, food colour and hot water.

Mix with a wooden spoon. This recipe makes enough for 6 children.

## Welcome to the Balharry Memorial Kindergarten.

We are a Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) centre.

Our Mission Statement

“To work as a team with parents and the community to provide a welcoming, safe and stimulating environment and a quality learning curriculum in which every child and family is respected and valued.”

### **What happens at Kindergarten:**

Planning for individual children’s learning and development is based on ‘Belonging, Being and Becoming- The early years learning framework for Australia’ (BBB)

We believe that ‘all children should experience learning that is engaging and builds success for life’ (BBB)

We plan for children’s learning and development using the five children’s learning outcomes from the BBB framework-

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators

The framework has an emphasis on interactive learning and the central role of play in young children’s learning and development.

Parents play an important part in their child’s development and learning. You are their first teacher. We invite you to be involved and contribute to the centre program to enhance every child’s development and learning.

We are also required to meet the National Quality Standards. Please refer to the information brochure included with your enrolment pack.

For more information about our program, please ask the staff, we will be glad to help.

## Centre Staff

Director: Michele Oliver

Teacher:

Early Childhood Worker: Kerena Simpson

Preschool Support Workers: Kerri McWaters, Hayley Miller

Rural Care workers: Casey Weaver, Richanda Fiegert , Hayley Miller

## Enrolment Policy

Same First Day procedures – If your child turns four before May 1, they will start preschool on the first day of Term 1 that year. If your child turns four on or after May 1, they will start preschool on the first day of Term 1 the following year.

Pre-entry, of one session per week, is available one term prior to starting their eligible time.

If your child has additional needs, they may be eligible for extended time at kindergarten.

Please discuss your child's enrolment options with the Director.

## Services Available

Kindergarten sessions operate: Tuesday and Thursday each week and Wednesday once a fortnight.

Session times are 8.40am-11.45am and 12.45pm-3.10pm.

Full day sessions are available to facilitate attendance.

Pre-entry sessions are offered when available.

Playgroup is held on Friday 10am-12pm. Playgroup is run by a parent committee and is available for all families with children 0-5 years old.

Rural Care - long day care/casual care and out of school hours care available in the Rural Care building for children 0-12. Inquiries should be made via the Director or Rural Care workers.

## Transition Program

The children are involved in a transition program to make starting school easier. The children have school visits in the term prior to starting school. You will be notified of the exact times and dates and other information, before the transition visits start.

## Preschool support and access to support services

DECD has a support services section, which is a support network for kindergarten children with additional needs and their families. The team works with staff, parents and children. Please see our Early Assistance Policy which explains the procedure for accessing services.

## DECD Policies

DECD policies are available on the website at:

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/childrenservices/pages/policies/NQFpolicies/>

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/policy/pages/OSPP/47427/>

If you have any further queries, please ask the staff. We will be glad to help you.

Finally, thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. We look forward to spending the next year with you and your child

## Other Services

### Scholastic Book Club

Parents are invited to order through the book club. The selection and price of books is usually very good. Book club orders will be sent home with the newsletter. If you would like to order, please return the correct money with your order by the day specified. Cheques should be made payable to Scholastic or follow the directions to pay online.

### School Dental Service

All kindergarten children are able to use the school dental service. The nearest clinic is at the Naracoorte Primary School. An information letter is included in your enrolment package.

Naracoorte Dental Clinic Ph 87622614

### Child and Family Health Service

Developmental and health checks are conducted prior to your child starting school. Notification will be given well in advance and you are invited to attend your child's check. The Health checks are done at the Kindergarten.

Phone 1300733 606 to make an appointment at the Naracoorte Clinic or another town in the South East

Parent Helpline Number 1300 364 100

### Naracoorte Community Health

A variety of services are available at Naracoorte Community Health, including speech therapy and occupational therapy. If your child needs support from any of these services, an appointment can be made by contacting the Naracoorte Community Health centre on 87628160.

### Immunisation

It is important for your child to be fully immunised. The Local District Nurse conducts immunisation at the Lucindale Health Clinic. Please phone 87662656 for an appointment.

**Toy Library**- The kindergarten operates a toy library, which is available to all kindergarten, playgroup and community families. The toy library is for children 0-8 years of age. It is open during kindergarten hours and during playgroup.

## Contributions and fees

Kindergarten contributions are a voluntary but necessary part of the centre's funding. The kindergarten receives some government funding but this needs to be supplemented by families through contributions and fundraising. The amount of contributions and fees are discussed at the Annual General Meeting each year.

This year the contributions, per term, are:

Kindergarten – *Full time* \$80

- *One day/week* \$40

Pre-entry - *1 session* \$30

This year the fees (non-voluntary) are:

Playgroup \$2 per session/per family

Toy library \$5 per term/per family

If you have any concerns about payment of the contributions or fees, please see the Director.

## General Information

First days should be happy days, so please stay with your child until they are happy and settled. Bring your child into kindergarten, so we can greet you and your child.

Please inform the staff:

- \* if someone else is going to collect your child
- \* if your child will not be going home on the bus
- \* if your child will be away from kindergarten
- \* if you change your address or contact phone numbers.

All this information is important to us!

If there have been any major changes in your family life that may affect your child, please let the staff know, as it may affect your child's behaviour at kindergarten. All information will remain confidential.

## What to bring

**A bag for their belongings.** This may include a lunch box, drink bottle, jumper, coat and artwork, so please consider this when purchasing a bag! Children have a locker to put their bag into.

## Snacks and lunch

As a DECD site, we follow the DECD strategy—"right bite" a guide to healthy food and drink choices for schools and preschools.

We encourage healthy foods for snack time, which is about 9.30am. There are lots of alternatives that your child can have. These include – fruit, cheese, celery or carrot straws, boiled egg, dried fruit, cruskits/rice cakes/extra sandwich or dried biscuits, yoghurt.

At lunch the children are encouraged to eat a sandwich or "sandwich" type food before they eat anything else. However a salad and cold meat, boiled eggs etc. are also O.K. Lunch boxes are stored in the fridge.

Muesli bars, fruit bars, cakes and sweet biscuits are **not recommended** foods. **Please keep these to a minimum.**

**Please do not send in chips, lollies, chocolates, roll ups etc.** We will ask your child to save these until they are going home.

## Children's Profile Books; Parent-Staff Interviews and the DECD Preschool Statement of Learning

We record your child's progress at kindergarten in their Profile Books. These include observations, learning stories, examples of children's work and photos. The Profile books are sent home at the end of each term. Profile books are yours to keep, at the end of your child's kindy time.

Formal interviews between parents and staff are organised approximately one term before your child starts school. We would encourage you to attend these interviews.

DECD Preschool Statement of Learning is written at the end of your child's time at kindergarten and is a summary of your child's development and skills. With your permission, these are given to the school as part of the School Entry Assessment process.

Term reflection You will also see a Term Reflection page in your child's profile book each term. These form part of the statement of learning.

**However, if you have any concerns about your child, please feel free to contact us at any time.**

## Murray Bridge Regional Office

If you have any concerns about the staff or kindergarten, we would like you to tell us as soon as possible. There is a Parent Complaint Policy to follow in your enrolment package. If you wish to speak to someone at the Regional Office the phone number is 08 85320725

## Evacuation Policy

In the event of an emergency, which requires evacuation of the building, the children will be taken to the Town Hall. This has been arranged with the local Police and CFS. Children will remain under the care and supervision of staff until their families collect them. Please read the Evacuation Plan, displayed on the notice board, for the evacuation procedure.

## Children's names

When teaching your child how to write their name, please use capital letters for the first letter only ie. David not DAVID.

## Parent Information

Parents are welcome at the kindergarten any time. You may like to help by sharing skills, taking small group activities, games or cooking or by helping with material preparation. Please fill in the Parent Involvement Roster, distributed at the beginning of each term, or just pop in.

Parents can also be involved by joining our **Governing Council**. The Governing Council is responsible for the management of the kindergarten, fundraising and general maintenance. The council meets each month and the meetings are open to all interested parents or carers.

**Please consider joining the council and supporting the kindergarten.**

The main office bearers this year are:

Chairperson: Eliza Handbury

Secretary: Vanessa Clarke

Treasurer: Jodie Ewer

## Parent Library

The kindergarten has a selection of books and brochures available for borrowing. They deal with child development, behaviour guidance and parenting skills as well as health issues and craft ideas. If you would like to borrow these resources, please fill in the borrowing book provided.

## Washing Roster

You will be rostered on to help wash the kindergarten smocks and tea towels. The roster will appear in the newsletter at the start of each term.

Please provide a water bottle for your child, with their name on it. **(No cordial or fruit juice, please)** Please ensure it has a tight fitting lid. We can refill bottles if needed.

## Newsletters

You will receive newsletters regularly. This is an important form of communication between the kindergarten staff and families, so please read them.

A memo book is provided for bus children so that parents or staff can write day to day messages. Please keep these in your child's bag and sign and date messages when read.

## Children's Library

The children may borrow books from the kindergarten library. The library has books and tape/CD book sets. Staff will assist bus children to borrow from the library and we ask that town families assist their children to borrow. If you need help, please ask the staff. Please provide a book bag to keep the books etc. safe.

## Clothing and footwear

Please dress your child appropriately. Something comfortable and easily washable is best. A change of clothes should also be provided in case of accidents, water play etc.

Sun Safe Policy - we have a policy that all children must wear a hat outside during the year. Please provide a sun hat with a wide brim or legionnaire style. Sunscreen should be applied before kindergarten and staff will re-apply after lunch. If your child has sensitive skin, please provide suitable sunscreen.

Shoes or sandals are best for active feet. Thongs can be dangerous. Rubber boots are O.K. in winter. Please see brochure from Limestone Coast Podiatry for more information.

Kindergarten windcheaters and T-shirts are available. Please see staff for more details.

**Please label all your child's clothing, including their shoes, with their name.**