Welcome to the Balharry Memorial Kindergarten.

We are a Department of Education and Children’s Services 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) and the South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability framework (SACSA). 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

And also using the seven learning areas from the SACSA framework-

- Self and social development
- Arts and creativity
- Communication and language
- Design and technology
- Diversity
- Health and physical development
- Understanding our world

Both frameworks have an emphasis on interactive learning and the central role of play in young children’s learning and development.

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

Enrolment Policy

The enrolment policy, of the department, states that children may receive a maximum of 4 terms of full time pre-school before entry to school. Pre-entry, of one session per week, is available one term prior to starting their eligible time.

Children living more than 10 kms from the centre may start at approx. 3.5 years of age, in line with the Rural Policy. These children attend preschool over 6 terms.

If your child has special 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 on Tuesday and Thursday. Session times are –
Tuesday - 8.45am-11.45am and 12.45pm-3.15pm,
Thursday - 8.45am-11.45am and 12.45pm-3.15pm.
Full day sessions are available to facilitate attendance.

**Pre-entry** sessions of one half day, are offered one term prior to starting full time kindergarten.

**Occasional and emergency care** is provided for children, enrolled at kindergarten, when possible. Please contact the Director if you wish to use this service.

**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** is 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.

**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 centres funding. The kindergarten receives very little government funding and needs to be mainly self-supporting. This is why contributions and fundraising are very important to us. The amount of contributions and fees are discussed at the Annual General Meeting each year.

This year the contributions, per term, are:

Kindergarten – 4 sessions- $50
- 2 sessions - $30
Pre-entry - 1 session - $25

This year the fees (non-voluntary) are:

Playgroup - $2 per session/per family
Occasional and emergency care – charged at Rural Care casual rate
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 number.
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
DECS have introduced “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, cold meat slices, 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.
Please keep to a minimum – muesli bars and fruit bars, chips, cakes, sweet biscuits, which can be eaten after their sandwich.
Please do not send in lollies, chocolate bars, roll ups etc. We will ask your child to save these until they are going home.
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, Numeracy Kits and tape/CD book sets. Staff will assist bus children to borrow form 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. (A pillowcase will do.)

**Clothing and footwear**

Please dress your child appropriately. Something comfortable and easily washable is best. A change of clothes is also recommended.

**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.*

**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 Help 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.

**Parent Library**

The kindergarten has a selection of books, brochures and videos, 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 a newsletter at the start of each term.

**Children’s Profile Books, Parent-Staff Interviews and Summative Reports**

We record your child’s progress at kindergarten in their Profile Books. These include observations, examples of children’s work and photos. The Profile books are sent
home at the end of your child’s first full time term at kindy and with the request for interviews. 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. Summative Reports are written at the end of your child’s time at kindergarten and are 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. However, if you have any concerns about your child, please feel free to contact us at any time.

**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.

**Other Services**

**Book Club**

Parents are invited to order through the bookclub. The selection and price of books is usually very good. Bookclub 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.

**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.

**Child and Youth Health**

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.

Naracoorte Clinic Phone no. 87621236
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.

**Transition Program**
The children are involved in a transition program to make starting school easier. The children have a total of 4 school visits in the term prior to starting school. You will be notified of the exact times and dates and you will be asked to help with transportation to the school and supervision during recess and lunch.

**Preschool support and access to special services**
DECS has a special services section, which is a support network for kindergarten children with special 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.

**Family Day Care**
This is home based child care organised by D.E.C.S. If you would like to make inquiries about this service or to become a provider, please contact the Naracoorte District Office on 87623099.

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