



# Dernancourt Kindergarten

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[www.dernancrktgn.sa.edu.au](http://www.dernancrktgn.sa.edu.au)

Thank you for considering Dernancourt kindergarten, we hope your experience with us is enjoyable!

## Philosophy:

At Dernancourt Kindergarten we aim to provide a safe, nurturing and adventurous learning environment that fosters children's curiosity, wonder and awe. We partner with families and community as equals, recognising the wealth of expertise they bring to each child's learning and development.

### Children

We believe children to be competent, curious and courageous learners from unique and diverse backgrounds. We value Aboriginal perspectives, and in partnership with the children, families, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people embed these throughout our program to deepen our own understanding of cultural connection to the land. We support children's right to express views and opinions freely and have these taken into account regarding any matter affecting them. We strive to meet the needs of the whole child by providing opportunities to develop physical, social, emotional, cognitive and language skills. We aim to foster the development of the whole child through a play-based program which is flexible, accessible, challenging, developmentally appropriate and which promotes high engagement, involvement and intellectual stretch. We value time spent in nature and use this as the conduit for deep learning across all curriculum areas. We provide children with opportunities for uninterrupted time in nature with passionate teachers facilitating inquiry-based learning.

### Families and Communities

At Dernancourt Kindergarten we develop authentic, inclusive and respectful relationships with families and the local community. We provide families with the opportunity to work in partnership with educators, to participate in their child's learning and development, to share decision making and to contribute to and/or access resources to support family wellbeing. The kindergarten is managed by a family run voluntary Governing Council in conjunction with guidelines set by the Department for Education. We value the diverse strengths and interests of families/members of the community and invite them to teach/share any expert skills or experiences to complement and enrich our learning program. We aim to work alongside community groups, agencies and services to share resources, provide education and develop support networks. We value the connection Kurna people have with the land and seek to engage with members within the Aboriginal community.

### Educational Staff

Educators prioritise working collaboratively to support and enhance children's learning, wellbeing and development. We do this with respect, honesty and through trusted relationships. We value the unique skills and contribution of each staff member, learning from, and with each other. Professional development is actively sought, engaged in, and supported to achieve best practice.

Dernancourt Kindergarten, a community of learners committed to working together in order to achieve best outcomes for children, families, and the wider community.

## STAFF:

Director: Natalie Stormonth

Teachers: Leanne Fleet and Carly Neilson

ECW's: Kerryanne Uglesic, Debra Edwards and Laura Visentin

Support Workers: Kerryanne Uglesic and Deb Edwards

Volunteer Support: Grace Caruso and Tracy Bland

Bilingual Support Workers: available on a needs basis

## KINDERGARTEN SESSIONS:

Time to Commence Kindergarten: Children can commence kindergarten either at the start or the middle of the year. Eligibility is based on when your child was born. Children who turn four before the end of April can begin kindergarten at the start of the year. Children turning four between May and the end of October are eligible to start kindergarten at the mid-year intake.

There are some children who can access kindergarten earlier for various reasons. For more information follow this link <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/preschool-enrolment>

Kindergarten operating times:

Monday 8.15am – 3.45pm

Tuesday 8.15 – 3.45 pm

Wednesday 8.15 – 3.45 pm

Thursday 8.15 – 3.45 pm.

Transition Visits: A 'Stay and Play' session occurs the week before the kindergarten term begins. This is a morning where families are invited to have a shared play experience whilst meeting all the staff. It is designed to be informal and relaxed, easing the children into their start of kindergarten.

## PLAYGROUP:

9:30 – 11:30 Fridays, odd weeks of the school term (weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9).

Playgroup children must be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for the supervision of their own child or those in their care. They are also asked to help in the packing up at the end of the session. Please contact our co-coordinator Grace Caruso for more details on 82646652.

## OCCASIONAL CARE:

Occasional care is currently unavailable due to our high enrolment levels and building capacity. Families are able to access other kindergarten's Occasional Care Service and still attend our centre for fulltime kindergarten. We can assist you in finding a suitable Occasional Care Service.

## FEES and PAYMENTS:

Kindergarten Fees - \$120.00 /term (there are no additional lunch care costs as this is part of our program). You will be issued with a fee invoice at the beginning of each term. Fees may be paid either by cash or Direct Debit. Details for direct debit appear on your invoice.

Playgroup - \$2.50 per week per child over 12 months.

Early Entry – Fees may vary dependent on child's attendance and needs.

### PAYMENTS:

When making cash payments for fees, excursions, fundraisers, etc. we ask that any cash payment be the correct money, placed in an envelope marked with the child's name, amount and what it is for written on the front. This then goes in the payment box just inside the entrance door. It is then passed onto the treasurer. Please don't ask staff for change because we don't hold much money at the kindergarten.

Payment by Bank Transfer can be done by the following details:

BSB: 065 145

Acc: 00900256

Reference: "Your child's name"

## MORNING ROUTINE:

When you arrive at Kindergarten, please support your child to sign in, select a locker for the day and unpack their bag. A staff member will be present to welcome and greet your child on arrival. Please check the notice board (white board along the path) each day to stay informed on any new information. The gate will be unlocked at 8:15AM at the start of the kindergarten session. Please do not come to Kindergarten before the start time as the staff require this time to prepare for the day.

Health: Please keep children at home if they are not well. This needs to be an adult decision. If children have a contagious illness we would appreciate a call.

## WHAT TO BRING:

Morning Tea: a healthy snack – e.g. fruit, cheese, savory biscuits, dried fruit. Morning tea should be packed separately to your child's lunch and kept in their bag. This enables them to access their snack when they are hungry whilst still reserving their lunch for later.

Lunch: please place your child's lunch in a named container (with an ice brick) and leave it in your child's bag in their locker.

Afternoon Tea: a piece of fruit or a vegetable for afternoon tea. This can be placed in the basket at the entry table.

Please refrain from packing chocolates, lollies, cakes, buns and sweet biscuits. We follow the Department for Education's healthy eating guidelines, and actively promote healthy food choices.

*A copy of our Healthy Food Policy is attached.*

Children need to bring a named drink bottle filled with water each day. Water is available for refills if needed. Children are encouraged to drink plenty of water, especially during hot weather. Please do not send fruit juices or cordial.

Children are generally asked not to bring toys from home as they may get lost or broken.

## ALLERGIES:

We have children at Kindergarten that have severe allergies. We have an "ALLERGY AWARENESS" Policy in place. *Please do not send nuts or nut products.* Please read the attached policy so that you are aware of foods that are not suitable for kindergarten.

*You will need to inform staff of allergies and medication needs when enrolling your child. We require health support forms to be completed.*

## SPECIAL OCCASIONS/BIRTHDAY GUIDELINES:

It is acknowledged that on some occasions there is a desire to have foods which are outside the general policy of the Centre, such as special events, fundraising etc. These occasions will be discussed and decided upon at Governing Council meetings.

We will be acknowledging children's birthdays with a song and they will receive a birthday certificate, so please don't send anything along to share. This will also apply to the end of term graduations.

## SUN SAFETY:

It is important that you remember to put sunscreen on your child in the morning before they arrive at Kindergarten. They will also need to bring a hat each day or wear a purchased kindergarten hat. We have a policy in line with schools, "no hat, no play" in term 1 and 4. We also implement the recommendations

of the Cancer Council of hats to be worn on days where the UV index is predicted to be 3 or higher. Please put your child's name on his/her hat as they can often go astray if un-named.

## CLOTHING:

We ask that children be sent in old clothing as they take part in messy activities. It is also important that they do not wear thongs and some consideration is given to long skirts or dresses as this can be dangerous when climbing.

Please also include spare clothes for your child in their bag, including underwear and name ALL children's clothing and footwear.

Available to purchase:

Short sleeve polo shirts with the kindergarten logo (in a variety colours) - \$25.00 each.

Dark Blue kindergarten bucket hats with child's name painted on the brim - \$15.

## COLLECTING YOUR CHILD

Kindergarten children must be collected by an adult who is specified on your enrolment form. If someone different will be collecting your child regularly please introduce him or her to the staff. If special arrangements are made for a particular day, please advise staff and record their name and phone number on the sign in sheet next to the main door. In this way we can ensure children's safety.

## CHILDREN'S LIBRARY AND LITERACY KITS:

Children are encouraged to borrow library books and literacy kits regularly. Each child will be supplied with a library bag upon commencing sessional kindergarten for their use while attending kindergarten. Library borrowing occurs on any day and as regularly as you would like.

Parents can volunteer to help with library borrowing by facilitating book borrowing for other children. This is a simple process of assisting the children who brought library bags to kindergarten that day to choose a book to borrow, and then record it on the library cards. It is a great way to get to know your child's friends at kindergarten. Please let us know if you would like to help out with library borrowing.

Literacy kits are available each day for parents to borrow for their child. We suggest taking them home for a week. Books and literacy kits must be returned before borrowing again.

## CURRICULUM

Please see the attached curriculum statement detailing the kindergarten's educational program and reporting process.

# Volunteering:

There are a number of ways to volunteer to the running of our kindergarten including (but not limited to):

Library borrowing (as detailed above)

Laundry washing – this involves taking home a bag of tea towels and smocks etc, and returning to be washed and returned.

Yard tidy roster – help maintain our beautiful grounds.

Governing council (see below)

Fundraising (see below)

## GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council is elected at the Annual General Meeting, held at the beginning of each year. The council consists of volunteers willing to help with

- the curriculum & outcomes for children
- the development & maintenance of the grounds and buildings
- the fundraising for the centre.

The Governing Council and staff work closely together and it is a positive and rewarding experience.

Governing Council meetings are held twice a term at the kindergarten, at a time suitable to the majority.

All parents/caregivers are welcome to attend any Governing council meetings.

Please see staff for more information.

## FUNDRAISING

Unfortunately, fees and government subsidy only contribute towards the running of the kindergarten. It is necessary to have a certain amount of fundraising to help pay for running costs and the acquisition of new resources. All children deserve the best that we can offer them and that includes the upkeep of equipment and resources. We hope that you can help support the kindergarten in its endeavours. We rely on parents for new and inventive ways of raising money.