



PARENT INFORMATION BOOK

ATHELSTONE PRESCHOOL



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

2026

[Click HERE for our website.](#)

338 GORGE ROAD, ATHELSTONE 5076



Athelstone Preschool

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Athelstone Preschool

WELCOME

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

A warm and heartfelt welcome to our preschool families! We are overjoyed to embark on this incredible journey of learning, growth, and discovery with your little learners.

At Athelstone, we believe in creating an environment that not only fosters learning and development but also embraces the unique qualities that make each child special. We have dedicated ourselves to providing a secure space where your child can explore, learn, and play freely. A nurturing environment is the foundation of every child's early education. We are committed to providing a space where your child feels safe, loved and encouraged. We are here to support your child's social, emotional, and cognitive development, creating a holistic and enriching experience.

At Athelstone Preschool, we pride ourselves on developing strong relationships with each other, our learners, parent community and service providers. We continuously strive to embrace the whole child whilst they are in our learning environment. We have embedded processes and approaches to teaching, learning, development and assessment that recognises our learners as a community with shared knowledge as well as recognising each learner as an individual. Children's individual strengths, areas of interests, prior knowledge, experiences, unique personalities, and their right to be seen, heard, cared for and appreciated is the heart of Athelstone Preschool.

We respect that each child is a unique individual, and we cherish the individuality that makes them shine. It is through our commitment to supporting children's emotional well-being and learning experiences that respond to children's current needs, interests and wonderings that we aim to inspire a love for learning that is as unique as each child. Additionally, we hope for all children to become socially equipped and well-rounded citizens, ready to navigate the complexities of the world with empathy, resilience, and a sense of community.

Thank you for trusting us with the privilege of being a part of your child's learning journey. We look forward to building lasting connections, fostering growth, and creating cherished memories together. Welcome to the Athelstone Preschool community, where every child is celebrated, every culture is embraced, and every day is an exciting new adventure!



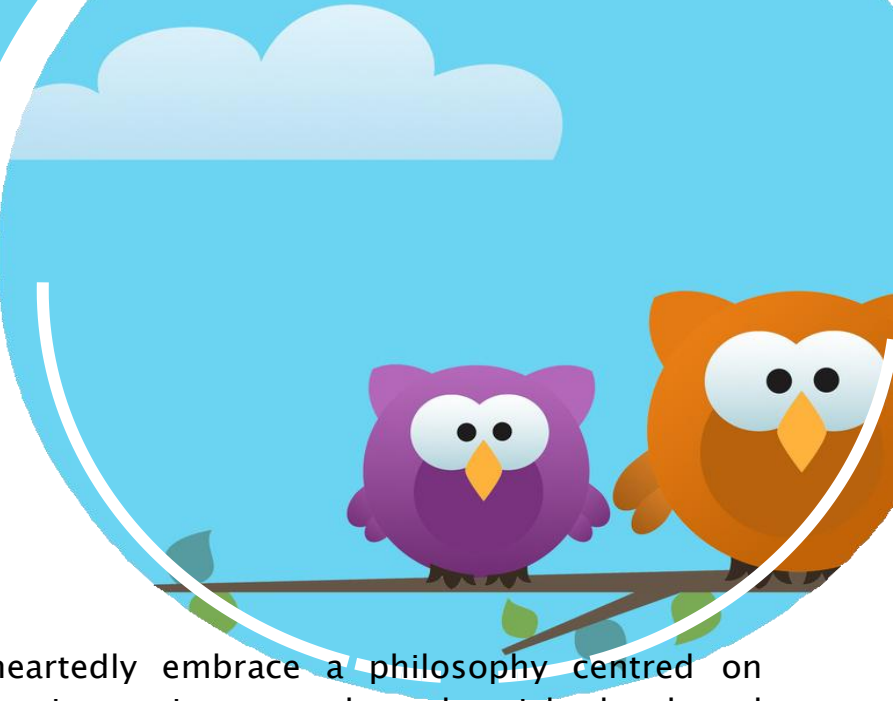
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Before we begin our time together, let's take a moment to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where we are gathered. We want to show our respect and gratitude to the Kurna people, who have been caring for this land for thousands of years. They have a rich history, and their connection to the land is special and important.

We acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional custodians of this land. We respect their elders, past and present, and value the knowledge they share with us. We are grateful and privileged to learn, play, share and gather on their country, and we commit ourselves to connecting children meaningfully to Country and culture and taking care of it too.

Our Philosophy

A SUMMARY



At Athelstone Preschool, we wholeheartedly embrace a philosophy centred on providing a nurturing and enriching learning environment through a rich play-based curriculum. Our approach is designed to cultivate learning and development and essential life skills, including creativity, resilience, social skills, problem-solving, and a commitment to social justice.

Recognising the profound impact of strong relationships on a child's love for learning, we cherish the collaboration between home and preschool. We actively encourage parents to join us on the learning journey, fostering a sense of partnership. Our philosophy emphasizes the importance of extending the learning experience beyond the preschool walls, with parents and service providers playing a crucial role in supporting each child's educational growth at home.

Collaboration is at the heart of Athelstone Preschool. Our dedicated educators work hand-in-hand with parents and the broader community to create a diverse learning environment. Together, we strive to build a safe and nurturing environment where children can freely learn, explore, and take risks. Our educators recognise the delicate balance between guidance and independence as means of developing children's self-identities and sense of agency.

Our team

GET TO KNOW US

The Athelstone Preschool team have worked alongside each other for many years and hope to always have you feel welcomed into our 'family'.

Suzana - Preschool Director
Ariya - Preschool Teacher
Jourdy - Preschool Teacher
Kate - Preschool Teacher
Joanne - Early Childhood Worker
Rachel - Early Childhood Worker
Cathy - Early Childhood Worker



Session times

GROUP 1 MON, TUES & ALTERNATE WED
9AM – 3PM

GROUP 2 THURS, FRI & ALTERNATE WED
9AM – 3PM

Fees

The account number for all payments is:

BankSA Athelstone Kindergarten
BSB number: 105-152
Account number: 567139740

The support and contribution to your child's learning is necessary to meet financial commitments and resources. Therefore, the following levy has been decided by the Athelstone Preschool Governing Council and is payable per term:

Sessional Preschool: \$170 per term
Transition visits (x2) \$36 in total

Parents will receive an invoice for fee payment. In order to keep track of payment, we encourage all payments to be made via EFT. The preschool feels strongly in aiming to avoid hardship for any parents. If the fees present a concern, please do not hesitate to speak with the Preschool Director. In cases of financial hardship, payment of fees can be negotiated (payment plans are optional). Children should not miss the benefit of preschool due to financial challenges.

Please include your child's name in the transaction so the preschool have a record of the payment and return the slip to kindergarten with the receipt number as this will allow us to confirm the payment.



Enrolment

THE PROCESS & CATCHMENT AREA

Under the DfE Preschool Enrolment Policy children are entitled to attend a preschool program for the equivalent of **up to 15 hours per week for four terms prior to entering formal schooling**. You can register your interest to enrol your child with us by submitting the [preschool registration of interest form](#).

This can be done at any time during the year. Priority will be given to children living in our catchment area. To check your catchment area, click [HERE](#).

If we are not in your catchment area, please indicate at least 2 other preschool options. We always recommend submitting your registration of interest to your catchment preschool.

INTAKE DATES

Children who **turn 4 before 1st May** can start at the beginning of that year.

Children who **turn 4 from 1st May to 31st** October can commence preschool at the start of term 3 as part of the mid-year intake. **On or after this date** a child will start preschool the next year.

Children who are enrolled as part of the mid-year intake, will still complete four terms of preschool. They will attend in terms 3 and 4 plus terms 1 and 2 of the following year, leading them into their schooling starting in term 3.

Children who are **Aboriginal or under the Guardianship** of the Minister for Education and Child Development are entitled to attend preschool from the age of 3 years. The child can attend up to 12 hours per week which then increases to 15 hours once the child turns 4 years of age. The child is also entitled to continue attending the preschool program until 6 years of age.



Join our community

GETTING INVOLVED WITH US

1

Governing Council

- **Two meetings per term:** We meet at 6pm on a Wednesday night twice a term to discuss curriculum planning, the behind the scenes of the planning and why, any upcoming events, excursions, and financial discussions.

Volunteering

2

- **Library Borrowing:** Parents who enjoy reading can volunteer to read books with the children and help them return and borrow their library books each week. This love helps in developing children's literacy skills and fosters a love for reading.
- **Breakfast Club:** We warmly invite any family members who would like to volunteer at our Breakfast Club (on Wednesdays at 9am) to join us in creating a positive start to the day for our children. Your support with preparing and serving breakfast helps build a strong sense of community, connection and belonging within our preschool. If you are interested, please speak to us at the office — we would love to have you involved. ❤️
- **Community Events:** Parent involvement and participation in bringing these events together is pivotal for its success. Letter box drops, sharing our social media posts with your social media community, family and friends and helping organise events too!
- **Gardening Projects:** Parents with a green thumb can assist in setting up our preschool garden and helping maintain it while teaching children about plants, ecosystems, and sustainability.
- **Talks and Demonstrations:** Parents can share insights from their professions, whether they are doctors, engineers, artists, or chefs. These sessions can be highly educational and inspiring for young minds.



Athelstone Preschool

Join our community

GETTING INVOLVED WITH US

Cultural Enrichment

3

- **Multicultural Experiences:** Parents from diverse cultural backgrounds can introduce children to different traditions, foods, music, and languages. This promotes inclusivity and broadens children's understanding of the world whilst also ensuring a sense of belonging for all.
- **Celebrating Festivals:** Parents can help organise celebrations for various cultural festivals, providing a rich, immersive learning experience.

Benefits of Parental Involvement

- **Enhanced Learning:** Diverse skill sets and experiences enrich the curriculum and provide varied learning opportunities.
- **Stronger Community:** Involvement fosters a sense of community and collaboration among parents, teachers, and children.
- **Increased Engagement:** Children feel more motivated and supported when they see their parents actively participating in their education and so do YOU!
- **Personal Growth:** Parents also benefit by developing new skills, building relationships, and gaining insights into their child's educational journey.
- **Relationships:** Being part of the learning journey from a different view point, helps support relationships with your children's peers, other families and the educators.

Communication

WAYS TO STAY INFORMED



At Athelstone Preschool, we value strong partnerships with families and believe that open communication helps children feel supported, connected, and confident in their learning journey.

Whiteboard: Our whiteboard, located outside the preschool, provides daily updates about what is happening each day, including special events, reminders, and important notices. This information is also uploaded to Storypark each morning for easy access.

Storypark: We use Storypark as our main communication platform to share children's learning experiences, newsletters, term calendars, and preschool updates. All families will receive an invitation to join Storypark during the week before preschool begins.

Informal conversations with educators: We encourage families to chat with educators at drop-off or pick-up times about any questions, concerns, or upcoming events. If you would like more time to talk, we are happy to arrange a meeting. Throughout the year, we also offer parent-teacher collaboration sessions where we discuss your child's development, celebrate progress, and work together to set learning goals.

Newsletters: Each term, the preschool publishes a newsletter to keep families informed about important dates, events, curriculum highlights, learning focus areas, and updates from our team. Our newsletters are an important way we communicate what is happening at the preschool and celebrate children's learning and achievements. We encourage all families to read the newsletter carefully to stay connected and informed throughout the term.

Being part of our Governing Council: Two meetings per term: We meet at 6pm on a Wednesday evening twice a term to discuss curriculum planning, the behind the scenes of the planning and why, any upcoming events, excursions, and financial discussions.

Your child's learning

WAYS TO STAY INFORMED

The staff enjoy talking with parents about all of the wonderful things that the children have been doing, so you are welcome to speak to us at any time. There are opportunities at the end of each session for informal discussions with any of the staff.

1

Each child receives an **Individual Learning Plan** containing learning goals. This is created using observations and information from the parent questionnaire or conversations with you. This will be sent to you at the end of term 1 and put it in your child learning folder.

2

In your child's second term of preschool, we will open opportunity for **Parent-Teacher Collaboration times** where together we discuss with you any future goals you may see for your child's final semester at preschool. We work with you to find a common goal between home and preschool.

3

At the end of your child's time at preschool, a **summary report** about your child's learning and development will be sent home and to the school that your child is to attend. This enables the school to attain some knowledge of your child's development in order to plan for their learning. Opportunities to discuss this report with educators is also always open.

Your child's learning and development is important to us. If you wish to have a more formal discussion, or you wish to discuss a matter confidentially, please arrange an appointment time.



Athelstone Preschool

A day at preschool

THINGS TO KNOW

Sign in/out sheet: This is located on the table outside so that you can sign your child in and out each day. Please write in this if somebody different will be collecting your child and also speak to the staff. (If there are legal restrictions on any persons having contact with your child, then a copy of the appropriate order must be given to the Preschool Director).

Car park safety: We draw your attention to this matter in the interests of the safety of all families and visitors using the preschool. All children **MUST** hold an adult's hand when walking through the car park. Drivers also need to be aware that the small size of children may make them unnoticeable when you are reversing. Please take care. Remember that the speed limit in the car park is 10km/hr.

Safety of children before sessions: Parents/caregivers are reminded that their children are not to be left unattended on preschool grounds before 9.00am. Each time you bring your child to preschool **PLEASE COME INSIDE** so that teachers can greet you both.

Emergency Care: This service is available at times in between 8.45am and 3.15pm. Prior notice is required. The cost is \$8.00. It is available for families who are already using our services, and is normally offered only in emergency situations. Any requests for regular care outside of normal sessions need to be discussed with the Preschool Director.

Transition Visits

THINGS TO KNOW

Each child is offered the **opportunity to have 2x two hour transition visits** towards the end of term 4 for January intake or term 2 for July intake. Parents are encouraged to stay for a short while and then allow their child's confidence to grow in the learning environment with the support of their educators.

Any concerns can always be discussed with the site leader at any time.

A day at preschool

THINGS TO BRING



- **A named drink bottle:** Containing only water
- **2 pieces of fruit/vegetables for snack:** Packing a morning snack and afternoon snack separate from each other is helpful for staff and the children to ensure that they don't eat it all at once. The children get very hungry during their preschool days as their bodies get incredibly busy.
- **Their lunch:** We encourage families to provide healthy food for their child to eat. Lunches are stored outside however we always recommend cool packs to be supplied by families. Educators are unable to reheat food. If children require warm food, sending you child's lunch in a thermos is an option. Please ensure that all lunch boxes, containers, and drink bottles are clearly named.
- **A named sunhat:** A broad brimmed hat with no cords under the chin to ensure we are aligning with the Department for Education policy.
*We ask that hats be kept in bags all year round so that they are available for your child to wear whenever they are outside. Hats with cords that go under the children's neck are no longer appropriate and are considered a risk within the Department for Educations hat policy. If you wish for your child to be protected with Sunscreen, please apply it prior to kindy in the morning. Staff will help the children to re-apply sunscreen after lunch on hot days.
- **Spare changes of clothes:** Please ensure that your child's name is on all clothing articles.

**Please send your child in shoes that are safe for climbing and running.
Thongs, slippers, crocs and rubber boots are not appropriate.**

Health & Wellness

POLICY & PROCEDURES



Health Checks: Vision, hearing and development check-ups by a nurse are usually held each term for children older than 4yrs 3mths. The dates will be posted in the newsletter. Appointments are for half an hour and a

parent/caregiver must accompany your child.

Medication: If your child needs to take medication prescribed by a doctor during session time, please speak with the Director to arrange a consent form. Any medication must be brought into the kindergarten kitchen for storage.

Please DO NOT leave medication in your child's bag. If your child requires an Asthma puffer or Epi Pen they will need a management plan written by your doctor.

Hygiene: If your child requires support with toileting or eating, it is a Department for Education requirement that the site receives a completed Contenance Care Plan or Oral Eating Plan that is completed by your GP or any other specialist services.

External Service Providers: We are strong believers in ensuring that children who have access to external services to support their development in their identified areas for increased support, should continue have access to this during their preschool year. At Athelstone Preschool we see this as an opportunity for the individual to have the therapies that are going to support them whilst being in a functional learning space where expectations and surrounding experiences are often different than in a clinic or home space.

Immunisations: It is a Department for Education Policy that we must have attained your child's 'up to date' Immunisation History Statement for them to continue attending preschool.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the above areas, please speak with the Director at any time.

Library & Literacy Kits

BORROWING AND RETURNS



Literacy kits are valuable tools designed to enhance children's reading abilities, pre-literacy skills, and comprehension. These kits often include a variety of materials such as books, flashcards, games, and interactive activities. Here's how they benefit your child's literacy development.

Reading Skills: Literacy kits provide access to a range of books that cater to different reading levels, helping children practice and improve their reading skills. Engaging stories and colourful illustrations capture their interest, encouraging a love for reading.

Pre-Literacy Skills: For younger children, literacy kits include activities that build foundational skills essential for reading. These might involve letter recognition, phonemic awareness, and vocabulary development. Interactive elements like puzzles and songs make learning fun and engaging.

Comprehension: Comprehension activities in literacy kits help children understand and interpret what they read. Questions, discussion prompts, and creative projects related to the stories encourage critical thinking and help children connect the text to their own experiences. By incorporating literacy kits into your child's routine, you provide them with a structured yet enjoyable way to develop essential reading and comprehension skills, setting a strong foundation for their academic success. Please feel free to borrow these at any time. They are placed in the pocket room for you to search through.

Library Borrowing Days

Group 1: Tuesday

Group 2: Thursday

The children have the option of bringing their library borrowing back on their library day at preschool.

OUR CURRICULUM

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) is a guide for early childhood educators to support and enhance young children's learning from birth to five years old. It focuses on creating a strong foundation for future learning and development.

The key **learning outcomes** and dispositions outlined in the EYLF:

- 1 : Children Have a Strong Sense of Identity
- 2: Children Are Connected with and Contribute to Their World
- 3: Children Have a Strong Sense of Wellbeing
- 4: Children Are Confident and Involved Learners
- 5: Children Are Effective Communicators

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Department for Education has their own policies and procedures that all sites must adhere to. As a site we have a range of policies and procedures that are specific to the context of our site.

These can be found in the pocket room at preschool.

MEDIA POLICY

The Department for Education has a media consent form that you will be sent as part of your enrolment process. Upon enrolment you will receive a detailed information sheet outlining how, why and when images of children will be used in our site, with parent permission.



PERSONAL DEVICES POLICY

The Department for Education has a media consent form that you will be sent as part of your enrolment process. Upon enrolment you will receive a detailed information sheet outlining how, why and when images of children will be used in our site, with parent permission.

The Department for Education phone policy states that the use of personal devices (phones, smart watches, ipads, laptops) cannot be on an educator or in the spaces where children could potentially access them. As part of your enrolment process, you will also receive information regarding how this affects you as a member of our community and your use of your personal devices whilst on site (please read it it's available on our website).

You are encouraged to look through the Department for Education policy yourself by searching, ***Safe use of digital technologies and online environments in early childhood education and care policy*** into your web browser or follow the link: [Safe use of digital technologies and online environments in early childhood education and care policy](#).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to ask a staff member directly.



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