Our goal is to provide a safe, caring and enriching learning environment for children from 3 months to 5 years.

Woodend Children’s Centre is YOUR Centre and your family’s involvement is readily welcomed.

We hope that the time you and your child spend with us will be fun and mutually rewarding.

We believe that parents are the first and foremost teachers of their children and the most effective learning occurs when the home and preschool work together and support each other. Please feel free to discuss any aspect concerning your child’s learning and development with staff.
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STAFF

PRESCHOOL

Director: Ms Emmy Kiriakou
Teacher: Mrs Joanne Welch
Teacher: Mrs Julie Fitzsimons
ECW1: Mrs Jenny Lloyd
ECW1: Mrs Brooke Barton
ECW1: Mrs Dorothy Karagiannis
ECW2: Mrs Hanka Bardiovsky
ECW1: 

OCCASIONAL CARE

ECW2: Mrs Elizabeth Rivers
ECW1: Mrs Sunny Park

* ECW = Early Childhood Worker

A number of staff work part time and may not be at the preschool each time your child attends.

SESSION TIMES

PRESCHOOL

Monday to Thursday inclusive 8.30am - 3.00pm
Friday 8.30am - 12.30pm

Children access two full days either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday and alternate Fridays to attend 30 hours of preschool over two weeks. Other days are negotiated with Director and depend on availability

OCCASIONAL CARE

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 8.30am - 11.30am
Monday & Tuesday 12.00pm - 3.00pm
TERM FEES
Preschool fees are $150.00. This is a flat fee for the term and you are given a $10 discount if you pay in advance of the term or within the first two weeks of the term. Parents experiencing difficulty in paying fees are encouraged to speak with the Director confidentially. Fees are subject to change. Excursions and performers have a levy of $15 added to Term 1 and Term 3 fees.

TERM DATES 2016
Term 1 1 February – 15 April
Term 2 2 May – 8 July
Term 3 25 July – 30 September
Term 4 17 October – 16 December

SINGLE ENTRY START DATE
The Same First Day policy means children need to be 4 before or on 30 April to attend preschool at the beginning of each year in January. Children whose birthdays are on or after 1 May in any year attend the following January. There will be no general intake of children in Terms 2, 3 and 4.

Further information can be found on the http://www.decd.sa.gov.au

SCHOOL ENROLMENT
It is the responsibility of parents to enrol their children at the school that your child will attend. Woodend Primary School is zoned; please check with the school to see if your child is eligible to attend.

Priority of Access
To manage high numbers of children enrolling in the centre the Governing Council has approved a Priority of Access Policy which states the criteria used when the centre has reached capacity and the priority catchment areas. This policy is found on our web site.

LOCAL SCHOOLS
Woodend 8322 6422
Sheidow Park 8381 8911
St. Martin de Porres 8387 2153
Hallett Cove R-12 8392 1020
Reynella 8387 1975
Hallett Cove East 8322 3677

OUR CURRICULUM
In all services at our centre we aim to provide a safe, secure, happy and loving environment for your child and a program which reflects the needs and interests of each child, family and the community.

Throughout South Australia all preschools and child care centres use the National Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) – Belonging, Being & Becoming and the Child Protection Curriculum. This ensures consistency in service delivery. The Framework’s vision is for all children to experience play-based learning that is engaging and builds success for life.

Positive learning outcomes for children are achieved through a program of planned “hands-on” play activities which take into account each child’s family background, skills, abilities, needs and interests.

As part of our literacy program children are encouraged to borrow a book on Mondays and Tuesdays. A library bag can be purchased for $6 from the preschool and can be personalised by your child for easy identification. If your child does not attend on Mondays or Tuesdays other arrangements can be made.

CORE PROGRAMS
PRESCHOOL
The preschool program provides a balance of structured activities and play. The preschool day incorporates group times for literacy experiences like stories and discussion groups and numeracy experiences like problem solving and spatial recognition. There are
also games, songs and music and dance experiences for children throughout the day. Children also help to set up and pack away activities during the day. They may also choose when to stop for a snack during play.

You can read and see what the children have done each day by looking at a book at the double door entrance called ‘The Woodend News’. This book has a daily commentary and is illustrated by photographs. Photographs and art work with explanations of children’s learning outcomes are also displayed around the centre.

OCCASIONAL CARE
The occasional care program offers children 1 year old – 5 years one session of care per week and runs conjointly with the preschool program. These children have a separate activity, story and song time but will mix with the preschool children during play time. The wide range of ages of children at play gives the centre a family outlook. Older children are encouraged to include and help care for younger ones.

We plan our program to:-
1 Encourage independence and confidence in each child and celebrate their uniqueness.
2 Allow each child to have experiences in social relationships in order to play, share and co-operate with each other.
3 Encourage children to develop the necessary language, skills and strategies to protect themselves in unsafe situations.
4 Further develop large muscle groups through climbing, jumping etc and fine muscle groups through cutting, drawing etc plus eye-hand co-ordination through threading, hammering, pouring, etc.
5 Help each child recognise and express their emotions appropriately.
6 Consolidate each child’s existing knowledge and provide opportunities to incorporate new knowledge.
7 Provide each child with experiences which encourage thinking, analysing and questioning.
8 Provide each child with the opportunity to express feelings and ideas through music and to provide an environment rich with stories, songs, discussion etc in order to stimulate children’s language.
9 Include regular excursions and visiting artists/educators that reflect program direction and enhance the children’s learning.

Our Preschool Program and Occasional Care Program use regular formal and informal sharing of children’s development with parents as an integral part of the development of the programs.

Preschool children receive an exit report called a Statement of Learning which is based on the Early Learning Framework. There is a copy for the parents, another held at the preschool, and with parent’s permission, another sent to their school. Learning information about your child is constantly added to the Statement of Learning throughout the year and provides a snapshot of their learning rather an end of year report. This report is important for your child’s successful orientation and transition to school. The preschool has good relationships with any of the schools you choose to send your child. There are opportunities to talk with the teachers at the preschool about your child’s learning throughout the year during a parent teacher interview. There will be interview times set aside each term for this purpose. You are most welcome to make an appointment to speak with teachers other times. You can also have a telephone conversation or correspond via e-mail which will always be answered. There are also times when you can talk with all staff informally about your child’s learning when you deliver and receive your child.

PRESCHOOL POLICIES

HEALTHY EATING
It is your responsibility to provide your child a lunch in a lunch box if your child is attending for a full day. There are no facilities to cook or heat lunch for a large group of children at the preschool. We also recommend that children bring pieces of fruit (fresh or dried), raw vegetables or cheese for both morning and
afternoon snack time. Please provide disposable spoons for yoghurts. All food is to be kept in your child’s bag with an ice pack during summer.

**NO NUT PRODUCTS IN SNACKS OR LUNCHES** e.g. peanut butter, nutella, almond paste, muesli bars, crackers, etc. If sending any processed food please read all listed ingredients and if it says ‘may contain traces of nuts or in contact with nuts’ then please leave these for home use. Staff actively discourages children from bringing sweet/processed foods to preschool in the interest of having food with low sugar and sodium content to promote good health.

The centre provides clean cups and pura tap drinking water for the children or bring your own water bottle. **No sugary drinks please.**

For further information see our Healthy Food Supply and Nutrition policy on [http://www.woodendcc.sa.edu.au](http://www.woodendcc.sa.edu.au)

Children help to cook a healthy food snack with a staff member; the recipes will be sent home either in your child’s pocket or attached to the monthly newsletter.

**HELPING CHILDREN**

The preschool program for children includes everything that they do to prepare to attend, while at the preschool and when they go home. To help children with their development we encourage children to take an increasing role in their routines. Parents are a vital part of their children’s development and they can support children to increase their skills and responsibilities by encouraging children to carry and hang up their own bags, to be part of preschool routines, such as putting library bags and shared fruit in the baskets. The more children are supported and encouraged to do these routine activities the more they become independent and resilient. This will help them to orientate to new situations like school.

**CLOTHING**

Children need to come dressed in play clothes which they can manage and makes accessing the toilet an easy experience. They are expected and encouraged to participate in messy activities both inside and outside. Messy play is a valuable activity and children need to feel free to become involved. Smocks are provided but are not fool proof. **Please provide a complete change of clothing in case of accidents.** The centre has T-shirts, windcheaters and hats with the kindergarten logo on them available for sale through the fundraising committee. These are not compulsory but do give children a strong sense of belonging.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Costs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library bags</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>T-shirts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hats</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Windcheaters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please ask for an order form.

**TOYS**

We have many carefully selected toys and resources available for your children to use while they are at the centre. We do not encourage commercial merchanised toys. Please discourage your children from bringing their own toys because they can become lost or broken. Please return any preschool toys that are inadvertently taken home in pockets or bags.

**SHOES**

Sensible footwear that support children’s growing feet in outdoor activities e.g. joggers, buckled sandals, non-slip soles, etc. (beach sandals, rubber boots, thongs and party shoes are not suitable).

Please **NAME** all articles of clothing that children are likely to remove e.g. cardigans, jumpers, shoes, socks, jackets, etc.
SKIN PROTECTION POLICY

The aims of the Woodend Children’s Centre Skin Protection Policy are to promote among children, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths.
- Personal responsibility for and decision-making about skin protection.
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in our centre to reduce the level of sun exposure when the UV radiation level is 3 and above.

This policy is for implementation from 1 September to 30 April. Children are expected to wear hats outside for play during this time. Further information about this policy can be found on our web page [http://www.woodendcc.sa.edu.au](http://www.woodendcc.sa.edu.au)

BAGS

Each child will need a clearly named bag suitable for hanging on a hook and large enough to carry a piece of fruit, sun hat, change of clothes, lunch box and a piece of work your child has made at preschool.

LOST PROPERTY

Lost items are placed in a Lost Property Box. Please check it regularly for your missing items. Any items left at the end of the term will be donated to a charity.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are a special time for children and we celebrate their birthday with a special kindergarten birthday ‘cake’ and a card. Please do not send birthday cakes or treats; just remind staff on the day.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AT PRESCHOOL

Our session times are from 8.30am – 3.00pm for a full day and 8.30am – 11.30am for half a day and 8.30am – 12.30pm for a Friday session which includes lunch. All parents/caregivers are notified of their child’s session times and dates by letter after they have completed the enrolment process.

Gates are unlocked by 8.30am each day so you can arrive with your child on time. Please leave your child in the care of a staff member when you arrive if you are in a hurry or take the time to settle your child at an activity before you say goodbye.

Each child is to be accompanied by a responsible person who needs to sign them in the Roll Book upon arrival and departure.

When collecting your child does make sure a teacher says “Goodbye” to them so we know they are safe in your care.

Please let us know if your child will be away for any reason either by a telephone call or a letter.

Let a staff know if someone other than yourself is going to collect your child. Please write the relevant details in the day diary by the roll book and sign. If you cannot do this in person then please telephone staff.

At the beginning or end of each session please check your child’s parent information pocket; this is located by the entrance door for preschool. There will be a monthly newsletter in this pocket if you do not have an e-mail, with excursion, special event and fundraising information. This is an important way of communicating with you.

WHITE BOARD

Please read the white board located by the double door entrance for current information each day and also look at the information
displayed on top of shelves for further parent information.

**NO SMOKING POLICY**

In the interest of community health all preschools are designated SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENTS both INSIDE BUILDINGS and WITHIN THE CENTRE’S GROUNDS. This includes the car park.

**CAR PARKING IS AN ON-GOING CONCERN**

The car park can get very busy so please respect others’ need to use it. Some spaces are specifically marked for staff, Disability and Child Care vans - so please park elsewhere. Do not park in the emergency vehicle access area.

Please enter/leave the centre via the locking gates at the left hand side of the building as you approach from the road. All gates are unlocked in the morning and locked at 3.30pm each day or when the staff leaves the premises.

**MEDICAL**

Please notify the centre if your child is away for any reason. It is important that the centre has up to date information on any medical conditions (especially Asthma and allergies) and specific emergency situations that may arise.

Please let the centre know of any changes in:

a) your address and/or home or daytime telephone number  
b) relevant family details  
c) stressful situations  

A health care plan is needed for all your child’s medical conditions or treatment required. No Medication can be left in your child’s bag. This includes sunscreen.

We provide first aid for all injuries at preschool but may call an ambulance if needed. More serious injuries are referred to you immediately via the telephone.

PLEASE DO NOT send your child to preschool if they are unwell. A child who is not feeling well is likely to have an unpleasant day at preschool. Such an experience is not beneficial to the child and we may need to call you to come and take your child home.

Please ensure that immunisations are up to date. Children of all ages, babies less than 3 months and pregnant women visit our centre regularly and children who are not immunised pose a risk of transferring illness.

TEACHERS NEED TO BE NOTIFIED OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES without revealing personal details; we may post information regarding infectious outbreaks on our notice boards for community information.

**PAYMENTS**

ALL monies must be placed in the black posting box near the office door.

When paying preschool fees, fundraising, etc, please place correct money and/or forms in a sealed envelope. On the front of the envelope write your child’s name, the date, amount of money enclosed, what it is for, including the term the payment is for.

If you are paying by direct debit please provide the centre the details including date, amount and what payment is for so that we can confirm your payment. It will take time to confirm your payment if paying by this method.

Direct Debit payment account details are:

BSB 105 - 184  
Account No 607102940  
Account Name Woodend Children’s Centre Management Inc

Please make sure you put your child’s name as your reference so we can apply it to your account.

*Payment by cheque is encouraged.*
GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council members are elected at the beginning of each year at the Woodend Children’s Centre Annual General Meeting held in February. These are your representatives who support the general running of the centre and they follow a code of conduct on all matters. The Governing Council of the preschool meet on Weeks 2 and 6 of each term and all parents are most welcome to attend these meetings.

Some of the main areas the Governing Council supports the preschool include:-

1. Financial management of the preschool
2. Maintenance and improvements of grounds and buildings
3. Supporting the staff in the provision of a quality program
4. Fundraising towards negotiated goals
5. Negotiating future directions

Some of the ways in which you can be involved:-

1. Become a member of the Governing Council
2. Become a member of a sub-committee
3. Taking part in social fundraising events

Your involvement will help the centre meet community needs and can be fun and rewarding for all.

ADULT INVOLVEMENT

Children feel a real sense of pride in having their parents share their preschool experiences with them. Parents are welcome to volunteer time in the centre to help with our program.

Areas in which you might be interested to help:

- reading to children
- cooking with children
- musical appreciation – do you play an instrument?
- playing table games – lotto, matching, etc.
- using a second language – teaching songs, counting, etc.
- preparing resources – this may also be done at home
- helping children access more complex computer programs
- grounds maintenance – gardening, weeding, etc
- caring for pets over weekends and holidays
- helping with excursions

Please look at the volunteering brochure found in the DECD website for further information. Speak with the Director to negotiate when and how you can volunteer your time.

Volunteering roles require a Criminal Screening Check. The Children’s Protection Act 1993 and the Children's Protection Regulations 2010 provide the legislative base for screening programs. The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) Screening Unit provides a screening service for DECD employees, contractors, volunteers and specific groups of students; eg some work experience and some adult re-entry students. It operates in accordance with the DCSI Criminal History Screening Standards which specify a maximum validity period of three years for clearances.

EFFECTIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

We all believe that all children have the right to feel safe all the time. At Woodend we promote learning in a safe (physically and emotionally) caring environment. Children are exposed to experiences and situations that enhance the growth of personal and interpersonal skills and enable them to participate independently as well as a member of a group. The centre has a Behaviour Management Policy on our web page http://www.woodendcc.sa.edu.au

Please see staff for a copy if you would like to find out more.
KEEPING SAFE: CHILD PROTECTION CURRICULUM

The purpose of the program is to broadly support children’s learning in the areas of rights, responsibilities, relationships and ethical behaviour. It has a specific aim to support children to learn ways of protecting themselves from abuse. More detailed information is provided through the year.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

You can go to Marion GP Plus Healthcare Centre, level 1/10 Milham Street, Oaklands Park (Monday to Friday 7425 8400), or Noarlunga GP Plus Super Clinic, 2 Alexander Kelly Drive, Noarlunga (Monday to Friday 8.30am-4.30pm 8384 9244).

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

Health Screenings are conducted through Child & Youth Health Services when your child is around 4.6 years. Your child will be given a form so you can make an appointment so the trained nurses can assess growth, development and skills. They can also refer children to related services if needed. You can contact the CYWH if you have any queries. General information can be obtained on their website. Phone 1300 733 606 for an appointment Preschool screens by CYWH are conducted at Woodend Primary School each term.

GRIEVANCES AND CONCERNS

If you have any concerns and/or a grievance speak to the Director who will follow up your concerns. For further information the parent complaint policy and procedures can be found on our web pages http://www.woodendcc.sa.gov.au.

WEB LINKS

S.A Dental Service
www.sadental.sa.gov.au

Department for Education and Child Development

Family Day Care

Woodend Children’s Centre
http://www.woodendcc.sa.edu.au

Child and Youth Health

Parenting SA

Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
  click on Early Childhood Reform for further details

National Quality Standards (NQS)
  click on Early Childhood Reform for further details

Policies
  click on Early Childhood Reform for further details

Immunisation Schedules

Local Government links
http://www.onkaparingacity.com/

Volunteering in Preschool