



Barmera Kindergarten Information Booklet 2024



OUR PHILOSOPHY

At Barmera Kindergarten we provide a welcoming, nurturing and inclusive environment for all children, their families and Barmera and wider communities. At Barmera we acknowledge that children arrive with varying knowledge and experiences and therefore as educators we want to provide an environment that instils passion for learning and life.

ROLE OF THE EDUCATOR

We understand the importance of establishing trustful and secure relationships with our learners and families and we pride ourselves in our nurturing, culturally safe and responsive interactions.

Our educators are, deliberate, intentional, responsive and reflective when planning and implementing play based learning experiences where we use children's interests and strengths to challenge, deepen conceptual development and strengthen their dispositions for learning through planned and spontaneous experiences.

CHILDREN AS LEARNERS

We recognise children as competent and capable learners who are valued, respected and are co learners alongside each other and educators. We foster children's agency and their voice and this is reflected in our connections and relationships with children and our everyday interactions. We support, scaffold and are intentional when providing a program that fosters children's wellbeing and dispositions for learning such as: collaboration, curiosity, creativity and imagination, enthusiasm, risk taking, problem solving, persistence, independence, resilient.

OUR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

At Barmera we recognise our environment as being the third educator, therefore we will provide an environment that is welcoming, exciting, engaging, spontaneous and challenging yet safe, valuing natural and repurposed materials and spaces.

We value the role of messy and sensory play and the impact this has on children's holistic learning.

FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY

We acknowledge and value that families are children's first and most influential teachers and are the holders of critical knowledge about their child. We value and embed inclusive practices where we work in partnerships with families to maximise children's learning, development and wellbeing.

We value our community connections and the importance this has on continuity of learning and transitions. We work in partnership with surrounding schools, health services and community members to support children's access, inclusion and participation to be active contributors to our community.





Welcome

A very warm welcome is extended to you and your family from the staff of the Barmera Kindergarten. This booklet has been prepared to answer some of the questions and queries you may have. We hope you will view the kindergarten as an extension of your home and that you'll share with us in the development of your child through the preschool years.

2023 Staff:

Acting Director: Candice Clark
Teachers: Julie Plush and Lauren Ashton
ECW's: Angela Psarakis and Sally Perry
Occasional Care: Katie Kassulke

Bilingual staff work at the kindergarten when required.
Please refer to outside notice board for photos of current staff members.

Services Offered:-

Sessional Kindergarten:

Children are entitled to 15hrs of kindergarten a week. At Barmera Kindergarten we offer these hours over 5 days per fortnight. By the end of the pre-entry you will know your child's days.

Monday – Thursday: 8:45 – 2:45

Sessions are allocated by the Director, in collaboration with families.

Occasional Care:

Barmera Kindergarten offers an Occasional Care Program which operates on Friday morning (8:45 – 11:45). Bookings are made on a fortnightly cycle and also accepted from 9:30 on Monday morning prior to the Thursday session.

Fee Structure: \$5 per session for one child
\$2.50 if a valid Health Care Card is presented

Families with more than one child attending the same session, pay a sibling fee of 50% for second and subsequent children.

Policy and Procedure Handbook

Within your enrolment pack you will have a Policy and Procedure Handbook which outlines the important policies or procedures that have an impact on your child and their learning whilst at kindy. This includes following the Healthy Eating Policy, Sun Protection Policy, Health Support Planning etc. It is important that families read this information so that they understand how we implement policies for the safety and welfare of all children. Reading and signing the acknowledge form is required.



Children's Book Exchange Library:

To promote reading at home, we have a book exchange library. Children are encouraged to bring a book from home and exchange it for a book from our library shelves (near the kitchen bench), children can exchange their book as often as they like. If you don't have a book that can be brought from home, please speak to kindy staff as we don't want children to miss the opportunity to enjoy books.

Parenting Information:

Some helpful links can also be found on our website www.barmerakgn.sa.edu.au. Information about local parenting groups and information sessions will be advertised throughout the year via Class Dojo

Pre-entry:

We aim to offer Pre Entry the term prior to children starting kindy, however this is determined by current enrolments and site capacity.

Fees:

Fees are set by the Governing Council and help to meet the running costs of the kindergarten, including equipment and consumables used by the children. Invoices are distributed to families at the beginning of each term.

\$75 per term

Centrepay is available.

Fees and fundraising money contribute to a major part of the kindergarten income. Direct deposit is the preferred method of payment, see bank details below. All cash monies paid into the kindergarten need to be put into a labelled envelope and posted into the kitchen bench letterbox. Please make sure you tender the correct money. All parent cash payments are receipted.

Acc Name: Barmera Kindergarten
BSB: 105-062
Acc No: 254003240

Class Dojo:

Class Dojo is our main communication platform with families, it enables educators to share learning experiences and photos (which families are encouraged to download and save). Newsletters, reminders and community information is shared through this platform. All families will receive an invitation to join Class Dojo the week prior to kindy starting. Follow the link in the email and complete the sign in process. To make accessing Class Dojo easy, once you are signed up you can download the App.



Our Program and Children’s Learning:

We believe that our kindergarten facilitates the development of life skills and competencies. Our safe, caring environment enables us to provide challenging and enriching, child initiated experiences where children develop and learn through play, according to their individual needs and interests.

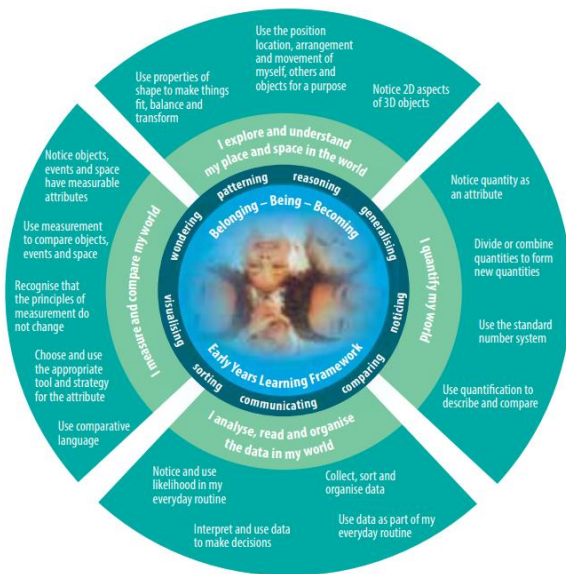
Kindergarten educators use the *Early Years Learning Framework* as a curriculum guide, which fosters learning dispositions and learning processes.

The Learning Outcome Areas are:

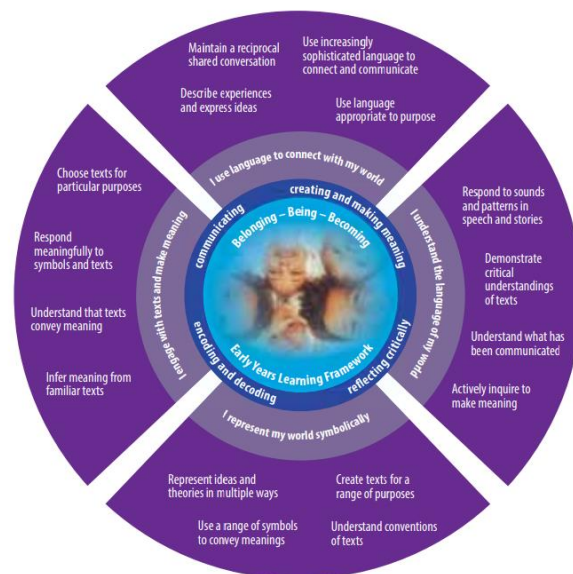
- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators.

When planning for children’s literacy and numeracy learning, we use the Department for Education’s Indicators of Preschool Numeracy and Literacy. These are designed to support, extend and enrich every child’s literacy and numeracy experiences. The Key Elements for Literacy and Numeracy are below:

Numeracy key elements



Literacy key elements



During your child's time at kindergarten, staff will observe & note their progress and plan for future intentional teaching experiences. Ongoing observations and assessment will be undertaken during your child’s time at kindergarten and information gathered from these will be shared with you on a continual basis. We encourage any input from you regarding your child's needs. Individual and group learning experiences. Each week reflections about the learning that has occurred and the following weeks program is shared with families through Class Dojo (families will receive an invitation via email to join this App).



Governing Council:

The Governing Council is a partnership between the kindy community and educators working together to develop the future directions for the site. We encourage as many parents as possible to join our Governing Council. Members are elected at the Annual General Meeting held early in the year and meetings are twice a term, usually at night. As members are considered volunteers, they are required to complete the Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care (RRHAN-EC) volunteer online training. Educators will support members during this process.

The Governing Council is responsible for

- Overseeing the financial management of the kindergarten and fundraising.
- Informing the parent body of all related issues, to enable discussion and endorsement.
- Development of policies.
- Endorsing the Quality Improvement Plan and Annual Report.

Parent Responsibilities:

Please wait with your child if you arrive before session time, as staff will be busy preparing for the day. The gate will be unlocked at 8:45am, for your child's safety please come into the kindergarten with them and make sure that educators are aware of your arrival.

Please make sure that your child arrives and is collected at the appropriate times. If you are unavoidably delayed, please telephone as soon as possible so that your child can be reassured. Should you arrange for somebody other than yourself to collect your child, it is necessary that both child and staff are told.

If you change your address, your family situation, or change your mind about which school your child will attend, please let the Director know as soon as possible.

Please notify staff if your child is sick, especially if they are suffering from an illness that can be transmitted to other children, eg: conjunctivitis, measles, school sores etc or if your child is going to be away for a number of sessions. If your child has suffered from diarrhoea or vomiting they need to stay away for another day following their last episode.

Parent Participation:

We invite you to become involved in whichever way you feel comfortable, Governing Council, helping in the garden, supporting with walks to the library or driving the bus to Nature Kindy etc.



Parent Note Pockets:

Each child has a named pocket in which newsletters, notices, invoices etc are placed. Please check regularly.

Washing and Gardening Roster:

We rely on parent help for the washing of smocks, towels etc. and tidying our yard. A roster is drawn up each term and your help with this task will be greatly appreciated.

Excursions:

For children to accompany the kindergarten on "long" excursions involving transport, separate consent forms are issued and you will be required to sign this form giving permission for your child to go.

For walking excursions we will attempt to display a notice informing you of the planned walk, and reassure you that children will be appropriately supervised at all times. Please let the staff know if you do not wish your child to participate.

Health Care:

It is a requirement that children attending kindergarten who need medication during the day (even a once off) **MUST** have the medication prescribed by a doctor and have the child's name on the medication. A medication authority form must also accompany the child's medication signed by the authorising doctor (Barmera Medical Centre has copies of this form). Medication must be given to staff not left in the child's bag.

Any child with an ongoing medical condition **MUST** have a **HEALTH CARE PLAN** completed on enrolment to ensure everyone's responsibilities are clearly defined. See the Director if you have any further queries.

First Aid:

At times children have accidents at kindergarten. Staff have up-to-date first aid training and they take great care when dealing with your child. When an incident occurs that requires first aid staff will complete an incident/injury/illness record and present this to you to sign when you collect your child. A copy is then made for your own records. Staff will contact you immediately if it is an incident of greater concern. Please ensure your contact details are kept updated.

In an emergency situation an ambulance will be called. Ambulance cover is available from your local St. John Ambulance Centre.



Dental Care:

All children attending kindergarten are eligible to access the school dental service. Contact Riverland Oral Health Centre - Berri on 8580 2700 for an appointment.

Child and Youth Health:

These screenings are conducted throughout the year for children prior to school entry. This screening includes some aspects of general development, hearing, gross and fine motor development and sight. Parents are strongly encouraged to make an appointment. For further information about this service contact your local Child and Youth Health Clinic:

Ph: 8582 2666.

Clothing and Lost Property:

We would prefer that children do not come to kindergarten wearing thongs, crocs, long dresses or high heels. These items of clothing can cause accidents while climbing or running.

Getting "dirty" is part of kindergarten business so please dress your child accordingly. Children's play and hence development, can be affected by concerns related to getting "dirty".

Clothes need to be easy for children to manage when going to the toilet. As we encourage independence, children need to be able to manage their own clothes. Please name all clothing, particularly jumpers, shoes, hats, lunch boxes and water bottles.

All articles of clothing that have been misplaced may be found in the lost property basket.

Most of the paints used at kindergarten are non-staining. Use cold water when washing.

Mandatory Reporting:

As teachers and carers of children we are legally obliged to report any suspicious incidence of child abuse (physical, emotional or neglect).

Confidentiality:

Kindergarten staff respect confidentiality in all matters pertaining to children and their families.



Kindergarten Polo Shirts and Hats:

A range of kindy uniforms are available for purchase, including hats, polo shirts and windcheaters. Please see staff if you wish to purchase uniforms.

Hats	\$20
T-shirts	\$20
Jackets	\$25

Celebrations:

Celebrations are an important part of our communities, families and therefore children's lives. They promote a sense of belonging and positive self esteem and can be celebrated in a variety of ways. The staff endeavour to celebrate each child's birthday at the kindergarten, however we do ask parents to remind us so that we do include the celebration during the day. If you would like to bring something in for your child to share with their kindy friends to celebrate their birthday we ask that it's **not** a food item (due to allergies) eg. stickers, bubbles etc are an option.

What to bring to kindergarten:

- All children are asked to bring a clearly named bag to put their belongings in
- A named, broad brimmed hat.
- A piece of fruit or vegetable for fruit time and a nutritious lunch. Please refer to the healthy eating pamphlet and healthy eating policy. Lunch boxes are kept in the refrigerator during the day.
- Children are asked to bring their own drink bottle filled with water, which can be refilled.
- Staff also discourage children from bringing toys to kindergarten- they can easily be lost or broken.
- A spare change of clothes including underwear and socks.

Collecting Materials:

We encourage parents to send along materials for children's construction activities such as clean empty boxes, wool, material scraps, corks, greeting cards, old wrapping paper, wood off-cuts for hammering, storage containers (margarine & ice-cream), gum nuts, shells etc. Items **not** accepted are toilet rolls, match boxes, cigarette boxes.



School Transition Program:

With our feeder schools we have set up transition programs designed to make the transition from kindergarten to Junior Primary a gradual and positive experience for the child and family.

You are asked to enrol your child at the school of your choice prior to the transition program. Please let us know if you change your mind regarding your child's school.

Enrolment forms are available from the schools.

For further information and enrolling procedures please contact the following schools.

- Barmera Primary School ph. 8588 2198
- Cobdogla Primary School ph. 8588 7131
- Glossop Primary School ph. 8583 2386
- Kingston-On-Murray Primary School ph. 8583 0239
- Moorook Primary School ph. 8583 9284
- Monash Primary School ph. 8583 5361
- Rivergum College ph. 8583 2304
- St Joseph's Barmera ph. 8588 2154

Nature Kindy:

This program occurs during Terms 2 & 3, at Rockies (bush land opposite the field day site). Children will have an opportunity to attend this program once a week. During Nature Kindy children have an opportunity to explore and enjoy the natural environment and direct their own learning. The program has an additional cost of \$10.

More information about this program will be provided early Term 2.

Move-to-Learn Program:

This is a program that strengthens neurological pathways to support children's readiness to learn. The program works on ensuring children have developed the 10 basic movement patterns. Exercises from this program are incorporated into the kindy program on a daily basis.

Emergency Procedures

Once a term we practice an evacuation and an evacuation so children are aware of what to do if there is an unsafe situation inside or outside at kindy. A note will be placed on the whiteboard at the end of the day so families are aware that this has occurred.



Grievance Procedure – Making a Complaint

Our staff are here to ensure you and your child enjoy a happy experience at Barmera Kindergarten, should a problem arise then please let us know. In most cases, parents together with the Educator will be able to resolve issues. Should you find yourself unsatisfied with the outcome, please contact the Director, who can work with you and the Educator to resolve the problem.

We hope you and your family will enjoy your time at the Barmera Kindergarten. Please feel free to discuss your child's progress with the staff at any time- informal, appointment, telephone or email.