



North Ingle Preschool

Parent Information Handbook

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Welcome to North Ingle Preschool!

We welcome you and your child/children to our preschool. We hope your time with us is a happy one filled with fun, creativity, education and learning.

At North Ingle Preschool we provide a safe and welcoming environment for all children to feel a sense of belonging and ownership. We model and encourage independence, creativity, respect, empathy and integrity. We support children to become effective communicators and decision makers while developing a strong sense of self. We provide hands-on, play-based learning experiences to nurture each child in acquiring a love for learning.

We respect and celebrate the multicultural diversity of our children and families, and this is reflected in our Preschool learning experiences. We believe that each child is a unique individual and a capable learner. We deliver a high quality educational program through an emergent curriculum, where children's voices are respected and valued. Our learning program encourages children to explore, experiment, ask questions and develop problem solving skills for lifelong learning.

The preschool curriculum is based on the **Early Years Learning Framework**.

The Framework identifies the following 5 learning outcomes for the 3-5 years age group.

- 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.

We work in close partnership with families and encourage open and daily communication. Please feel free to talk to our friendly staff with any questions, queries or comments.

We look forward to working with you and your child/children to make your time at North Ingle Preschool a challenging, fun and exciting experience!



Session Times

All day Tuesday: 8.45 am – 2.45 pm
Wednesday morning: 8.45 am– 11.45 am
All day Thursday: 8.45 am – 2:45 pm

Children are eligible and funded for 4 terms of Preschool before commencing Reception.

Term Fees

For our Preschool to provide the best learning experiences for your child/children we require a termly fee of \$45 to cover the cost of essential consumable items such as paint, glue, craft materials and new equipment.

Fees are to be paid at the school's front office and can be paid at any time throughout the term. If there are any difficulties with payment, a payment plan can be organised. Online payment is now available. Please see our friendly finance officer for further details.

Public School Term Dates

2017

Term 1 – 30th January – 13th April
Term 2 – 1st May – 7th July
Term 3 – 24th July – 29th September
Term 4 – 16th October – 15th December

2018

Term 1 – 29th January – 13th April
Term 2 – 30th April – 6th July
Term 3 – 23rd July – 28th September
Term 4 – 15th October – 14th December

Food

Healthy eating is a strong focus within our Preschool. In promoting healthy eating practices we encourage children to bring along healthy snacks in their lunch boxes e.g.

- fresh or dried fruit
- salad
- vegetables and dip
- cheese and crackers

On Tuesdays and Thursdays children will need to pack a healthy lunch e.g.

- sandwich
- roll
- wrap

Please inform staff of any food allergies or intolerances. Children will need a drink bottle filled with water each day. A Pura tap is available for refills throughout the day.

Sun Smart Policy

As recommended by the Cancer Council SA we are implementing sun protection all throughout the year, Terms 1, 2, 3 and 4. Even on a cloudy day U.V. rays can still harm the skin. The hat needs to protect the neck, face and ears which means a hat with a brim all around or a legionnaire's hat is most suitable.

Children will need to have a hat to play outside. Please ensure your child brings a hat to Preschool each day, they can leave them in their cubbies. We will also be providing sunscreen for application on sunny days. Please advise staff if your child requires a certain brand/type of sunscreen.

Clothing

While children are busy playing, making, experimenting and exploring, it is essential for children to wear comfortable clothing and footwear suitable for all activities such as running, climbing, swinging, riding etc.

As we are a Sun smart preschool, children will need to wear sun protective clothing that cover their shoulders (i.e. no tank tops, shoe-string straps, etc.) Due to health and safety reasons thongs, shoes with heels and crocs are not appropriate footwear. To assist your child's growing independence please encourage them to wear sandals, covered shoes or sneakers that they are able to put on and remove on their own.

Please pack a spare set of clothes in your child's bag, in case of accidents or messy clothing from mud or paint. Please write your child's name on his/her belongings so that they can be easily identified.

Nature Play

Playing in the mud is beneficial for children as it allows them to connect with nature and the natural resources that surround us. As well as this, playing in mud provides children with the sensory experiences that assists them in learning and developing. As mud is an open ended material it also allows for children to become creative thinkers through their play.

As this is a new concept for many of the preschool children, it can be a little bit messy. We recommend that parents pack a spare change of clothing for their child/children in case they get excessively dirty or wet while exploring outdoors.

Library

The children will visit the School Library on Thursdays. It is important that children always bring a library bag for the protection of the book. Please write your child's name on his/her library bag for easy identification of books/bags. Children are able to keep their borrowed book for use at home until the following Thursday. Children may only borrow a new book if the previous week's book has been returned.

Attendance

We consider it important that children attend at least 4 (and preferably all 5) sessions per week to gain the maximum benefit from their Preschool year. Our staffing and Government Grants depend on regular attendance. If your child is absent please phone to let the school or teacher know.

Enrolments

Early enrolment of children helps us in establishing our numbers and staffing in advance. We are also staffed on attendance.

Entry into School

In South Australia, public primary schools have one intake date, this means:

- If your child turns five years before 1 May they can start primary school the first day of term 1 of that year.
- If your child turns five on or after 1 May they can start primary school the first day of term 1 of the following year.

The one intake means every child has four terms of pre-schooling and reception before starting the rest of their schooling. Your child must be at school by their sixth birthday - this is the compulsory school starting age.

Transition Program

As our preschool is school based and on-site with North Ingle School, we aim to support you and your child with a smooth transition to school. Once a week children take part in a Transition Play Based Program with the Junior Primary classes.

In term 4 before your child is due to start school, they will be given the opportunity to have transition visits to the school. Usually children have 3 visits towards the end of the term. Transition visits can also be arranged for children who will be attending primary schools other than North Ingle Primary School.

Policies

The Preschool staff are continuously reviewing and improving our policies to support the care and education of our young children. A 'Policies Folder' is available for families to access at any time. Policies can also be viewed on our website. If you have any questions regarding any of our policies please feel free to speak with a friendly staff member.

Support Services

Preschool Support - DECD provides specialised help free of charge from qualified Speech Pathologists, Psychologists, Social Workers and Disability Coordinators. If you have any queries or concerns regarding your child's development please see staff for a confidential referral

Bilingual Support - For children and families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who have limited English.

Health Screenings and Dental Checks - Child and Youth Health provide a health screening for children aged 4.5 years and over.

Playgroup

North Ingle Playgroup runs every Friday morning during term time. Playgroup enables families and children to enjoy the preschool facilities and play spaces on offer. It also provides opportunities for children to play and learn in a safe and comfortable setting while developing social skills and becoming familiar with the Preschool environment.

When you visit North Ingle Playgroup you will immediately get a sense of belonging. You will observe positive interactions in intentional and free play with high levels of participation and engagement in a range of activities. These include craft, painting, play dough, puzzles, indoor sandpit, outdoor activities, singing, story time, music, healthy morning snacks and more.

Keeping Informed

All children have a communication pocket. These are located at the main entrance to the Preschool. Please make it a priority to check this pocket each time you come to the Pre-school at drop off and pick up times. It is there that you will find newsletters, fee

accounts, receipts and other correspondence. Important dates and day to day events are indicated on the 'Parent Noticeboard'.

Parent Involvement

Parents are always welcome in the Preschool. We value all parent contributions and appreciate any volunteer time offered.

We are more than happy to accept donations of craft materials – wool, cardboard boxes, plastic containers, buttons, string and feathers etc.

If you would like to volunteer time in the preschool to run a learning experience, whether that be cooking, art, sports, music or reading books we would love to hear from you.

Pre-entry Transition

North Ingle Preschool offers Pre-entry sessions during Term 4 before your child commence full time Pre School the following year. Pre-entry is arranged according to centre enrolments and numbers. Please contact the Preschool for further information.

Car Parking

Parents are kindly asked to park their cars in the streets adjacent to the school. With delivery trucks going in and out, the staff car park is a dangerous place for children. This is therefore an out of bounds area for all children in the school. Please keep your child safe by parking in the street.

Governing Council

The Governing council consists of parent and community representatives responsible for the financial management and maintenance of the School and Preschool. The Governing Council arranges social and fundraising events to provide the funds necessary to keep the Preschool operating smoothly and provide resources for your children. The Governing Council has a Preschool parent representative. Please see a staff or Council member for more information.