WELCOME TO THE LADY GEORGE KINDERGARTEN

We hope you and your child enjoy the experience of developing positive relationships and learning with others during your time at The Lady George Kindergarten.

The Lady George Kindergarten is a full time preschool centre in the Unley Council area. The Kindergarten was opened in 1955. Staff work as a team to provide an excellent educational program for young children and their families. We believe that children learn best through their play and we aim to plan and implement a stimulating, dynamic educational program in which children are encouraged to be actively involved in all aspects of their learning. The environment is safe, interesting and enjoyable with activities planned that meet the needs of individual children. We support and extend the individual child’s play skills, their active exploration and thus their learning. This occurs through quality teaching, using current methodologies with a thorough knowledge of relevant curriculum pedagogy. We value the opportunity to work in partnership with families to ensure the needs of individual children are met. We plan a program and implement a curriculum that promotes communication, problem solving, questioning, optimism, resilience and celebrates each individual’s success.

The Lady George Kindergarten offers sessional kindergarten, full day sessions, pre-entry, playgroup and a lunch-care program.

Mission Statement

The core business of The Lady George Kindergarten is to plan and provide a high quality age appropriate educational program for children in their eligible preschool year.
STAFF:

Director: Sally Sorrell
Teachers: Rosemary Rogers
          Meredith Retallack

Early Childhood Worker: Sharon Pensa
Early Childhood Worker Lunch Care Program: Jo Leuders

Pre School Support:

PRE SCHOOL SUPPORT
Through the Department of Education and Children’s Services (DECS), children and families can access support services from the Speech Pathologist, Psychologist, Disability Consultant and Social Worker and Bilingual Assistants. If you require access to these specialised services please speak to the Director.
Under the Policy and Guidelines of the Department of Education and Children’s Services, children are entitled to one year of sessional preschool during their eligible year before commencing school. Children are placed in one of two groups:

**Bluegum** – Monday and Tuesday 8.45-11.30a.m.
Wednesday and Thursday 12.15-3.00p.m.

**Wattle** - Monday and Tuesday 12.15-3.00p.m.
Wednesday and Thursday 8.45-11.30a.m.

Full day sessions are available for children, generally in their last 2 terms before beginning at school.

**Pre Entry**
Pre Entry is offered for children in the Term during which they turn 4 years old.
Pre entry sessions are integrated into a kindergarten session. Pre Entry allows children a gentle introduction into the Kindergarten as they learn the routines and expectations of the group setting. They also have time to begin to form friendships with other children.

**Playgroup**
Playgroup operates independently using the kindergarten environment. This gives the opportunity for those children to become increasingly familiar with the kindergarten setting and the available activities. The Playgroup operates on Fridays 9.00 – 10.30.
Playgroup provides the chance to meet other families in your community and to introduce your children to The Lady George Kindergarten. The staff will be more than happy to show you around the centre.
GENERAL INFORMATION

Greeting and Farewelling

Please inform staff if someone other than yourself is going to collect your child at the end of a session. A “Collection Diary” is on the Parent Table for this purpose. It is important to keep to the session times and so if you are early please stay outside with your child until the session begins and always bring your child into the building to be greeted by a staff member. If you need to collect your child early please let a staff member know.

Parking in Highgate Street

Please note the No Parking and Loading Zone signs directly out the front of the kindy. The loading zone is only for use by families who have children with physical disabilities and the Child Care Centre buses.

Notice Pockets

These are located in the bathroom. Please check them regularly for invoices and notices.

Rosters

To assist with the smooth running of the Centre, parents are requested to assist with tasks such as laundry or sweeping. This should occur once during the child’s year. Each term a list is placed on the bathroom cupboard on the wall near the kitchen. A card will be placed in your pocket to remind you when it is your turn.
Fees

Sessional Kindergarten $90.00
(this includes the $10.00 levy for bus hire/excursions/concerts)

Lunchcare $10.00 per session
Pre-Entry $35.00 per term
(this includes a kindy hat)
Early Entry $20.00
Early Entry + Pre entry $55
Playgroup $2.00 per visit
Occasional/Emergency Care $ 5.00 per hour or part thereof

Please place money in a named envelope in the cash box on the wall near the kitchen.
All money is handled by the treasurer who will place receipts in notice pockets. Please note that direct debit is available – information related to direct debit will be printed on your fees invoice.

What I Need To Bring To Kindergarten

Each child will need to bring:
A named bag in which to put their things
A named hat each time they come
A spare change of clothes if necessary
A snack that promotes good health (No cakes, lollies, biscuits, nuts, chips or muesli bars)
A drink bottle with water. Fresh water is always available to the children.
Toys from Home

The Lady George Kindergarten is a war toy free zone. Please do not allow your child to bring weapons, capes or Media-type toys to kindergarten. Equipment is carefully chosen by the staff to assist children to build their skills and develop depth and complexity in their play. These toys tend to inhibit creativity and produce aggressive, stereotyped play. We generally discourage children from bringing toys from home, as they can be broken or lost.

Parent Help

Help is always welcome and appreciated and we welcome your assistance in a range of ways. If you have a particular interest or skill, please share this with us so that we can incorporate these into our program. If you would like to come in and help during sessions eg: with cooking or art activities please let us know. Help is always appreciated in the management of the lending libraries.

Lending Library

The Lady George Kindergarten has a small lending library service whereby children can borrow books to read at home. This gives children the opportunity to increase their usage of age appropriate books and provides them with the opportunity to view a range of texts. Please take advantage of this service. If you would like to assist with this please speak to staff as we rely upon parent assistance with this service.
**Literacy & Numeracy Kits**
We also have a small selection of Literacy and Numeracy Kits available for borrowing. These come with a range of items relevant to the particular story that can be used as discussion points with your child. This can then further add to your child’s enjoyment of literature and add to the developing understanding of the elements of numeracy. This service also relies heavily on parent assistance and we appreciate any offer of help.

**Behaviour Code – Centre Policy**
We believe that everyone has the right to feel safe all the time.
Part of the provision of a high quality service involves a consistent, positive approach to behaviour management that accounts for the needs of individual children and the well being of all.
Staff model and teach appropriate behaviour and language to children. Some children need extra care when managing conflict or their own emotions/feelings.
A copy of our Behaviour Code is available in the Policies Folder available for parents at the Parent Information shelf.

**Centre Policies**
All Centre Policies are available for parents to read – they are located in a folder at the Parent Shelf as you enter the main doors. Please feel to read any policies at any time.
All policies are reviewed by the Parent Governing Council annually.
School Dental Service
Children are entitled to dental treatment through the School Dental Service. Enrolment forms are available through the kindergarten.
The district Dental Surgery is located at:
  Mitcham Primary School,
  Elphyn road
  Kingswood S.A. 5062. Phone 8271 0371
The Role of the Kindergarten Committee.

The Kindergarten has a Governing Council that is elected at the Annual General Meeting held each year in November. This parent committee assists the Director to manage the Kindergarten budget and finances and supports the staff team as they promote the Kindergarten’s educational practice within the community. The committee also organises information, social and fundraising functions, maintains the building, grounds and equipment in a safe and hygienic condition and liaises with D.E.C.S. and other community groups as required. Meetings are organised on a monthly basis and these meetings are open, however only elected members may vote.
Curriculum

All DECS staff across the state provide developmentally appropriate curriculum through the mandated curriculum framework known as the Early Years Learning Framework which has 5 Learning Outcomes. These outcomes include – 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 and Children are effective communicators.

The Learning Outcomes ensure that all planning reflects the work undertaken to ensure learning occurs and to allow for accountability.

The educational program at The Lady George Kindergarten has been developed using this framework with a distinct ‘Inquiry’ focus. This allows each child to develop their ability to reflect upon what they already know and question what it is that they need to know more about. Hopefully they are also able to identify what they have learnt.

It is important to note however that curriculum in the early years is about the process used and the young child’s experience within it, rather than the product.

Reporting to families

Staff collect examples of children’s work and take photographs of each child throughout their time at Kindergarten. This is then collated into a written summative report for home and school, and each child is given a portfolio.
containing examples of their work and the relevant photographs which relate to the EYLF Learning Areas. An Interim Report is developed for each child in their first Term of sessional preschool to compliment the reporting process.
Teacher/Parent interviews are available for children upon request. The Centre has an open door policy where parents are invited to talk with staff about their child’s progress. It can be useful however to make a specific time to discuss particular concerns.