

THORNDON PARK KINDERGARTEN

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES



FAMILY BOOKLET





Welcome from the Director

Welcome to the Thorndon Park Kindergarten Family

Dear Families,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you and your family to Thorndon Park Kindergarten.

Beginning kindergarten is a significant milestone in every child's life. It marks the beginning of new friendships, exciting discoveries, growing independence and a lifelong love of learning. We feel incredibly privileged to be part of this important chapter in your child's journey.

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, we believe every child is capable, competent and full of potential. We recognise children as active participants in their own learning, with unique ideas, interests and perspectives that deserve to be heard, valued and celebrated. Our role as educators is to nurture each child's natural curiosity, support their wellbeing and create meaningful learning experiences that inspire confidence, creativity and resilience.

Our kindergarten is much more than a place where children prepare for school. It is a community where relationships flourish, imaginations thrive and every child is encouraged to explore, question, create and discover. Through play-based and inquiry learning, children develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions they need to become lifelong learners.

Our educational program is guided by the **Early Years Learning Framework V2.0**, the **National Quality Standards** and the values of the **Department for Education**. We are also inspired by the principles of the **Reggio Emilia**, where children are viewed as capable researchers and the learning environment is considered the "third teacher."

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten we believe learning happens everywhere. Whether children are constructing with loose parts, investigating insects in the garden, painting, storytelling, climbing trees, cooking together or asking thoughtful questions about the World around them, every experience provides rich opportunities for learning.

We value strong partnerships with families and recognise that parents and caregivers are children's first and most important teachers. We look forward to building genuine relationships with your family and working alongside you throughout your child's preschool journey.

This handbook has been designed as a guide for your family's time at Thorndon Park Kindergarten. Inside you will find information about our educational philosophy, daily routines, communication, learning experiences, health and wellbeing, child safety, family involvement and much more.

We encourage you to keep this handbook near by throughout the year and refer back to it whenever needed.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's early learning journey into a formal education setting.

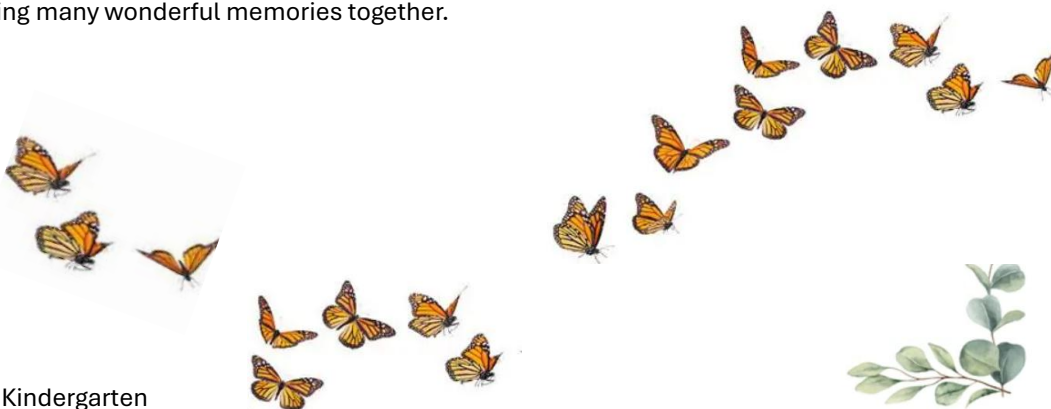
We look forward to sharing many wonderful memories together.

Warm regards,



Kate McMahon

Director Thorndon Park Kindergarten





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

WALKING TOGETHER ON KAURNA COUNTRY



Thorndon Park Kindergarten acknowledges that we learn and play on the traditional lands of the **Kaurna People**, the Traditional Custodians of the Adelaide Plains.

We pay our deepest respects to Kaurna Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are part of our kindergarten community.

For tens of thousands of years, Aboriginal peoples have nurtured and cared for this land through deep knowledge, connection and respect for Country. We recognise that this wisdom continues today and enriches our understanding of caring for the environment, building relationships and learning from one another.

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten we are committed to:

- Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives throughout our curriculum.
- Learning about the Kaurna people and the significance of the land on which we learn.
- Encouraging respect for diversity, culture and identity.
- Developing meaningful connections with nature and Country.
- Supporting every child to become an active and respectful citizen.





5 Nii - na mar - ni, mar - ni ai, on this land to - day;

How are you? I am good, sing and dance and play



ABOUT THORNDON PARK KINDERGARTEN

Nestled amongst beautiful trees and natural surroundings, Thorndon Park Kindergarten is a welcoming learning community where children are encouraged to explore, discover and develop a lifelong love of learning.

We believe childhood is precious and that every child deserves opportunities to learn through play, inquiry, creativity and meaningful relationships.

Our kindergarten offers rich indoor and outdoor environments thoughtfully designed to encourage curiosity, imagination and independence. Children engage in experiences that reflect their interests, challenge their thinking and inspire them to investigate the world around them.

Our experienced educators work alongside children as co-learners, carefully observing, listening and extending learning through intentional teaching. We recognise children as capable researchers whose ideas shape the curriculum and influence the experiences we provide.

Families are at the heart of our community. We value respectful partnerships and recognise that parents and caregivers bring invaluable knowledge about their children. Together we create a strong foundation that supports every child's wellbeing, learning and sense of belonging.

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, we celebrate diversity, inclusion and the unique strengths every child brings to our community. Our goal is for every child to leave kindergarten feeling confident, capable and excited about the next stage of their learning journey.



A Place Where Childhood is Valued

For over **50 years**, Thorndon Park Kindergarten has been a valued part of the local community, providing generations of children with a warm, welcoming and inspiring place to begin their educational journey.

Throughout our history, our commitment has remained the same—to provide children with a safe, nurturing environment where they feel a strong sense of belonging, develop meaningful relationships and are empowered to become confident learners.

Today, our kindergarten continues to evolve, embracing contemporary research, innovative teaching practices and the latest developments in early childhood education while remaining true to what matters most—children.

Every day our learning spaces are thoughtfully designed to encourage curiosity, creativity, collaboration and independence. We celebrate childhood as a unique and valuable stage of life, recognising that children learn best through meaningful play, inquiry, exploration and authentic relationships.

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, we are proud to be part of the Department for Education and are committed to providing a high-quality educational program guided by:

- The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF V2.0)
- Keeping Safe Curriculum
- The National Quality Standards
- The National Quality Framework
- Child Safe Standards
- Department for Education priorities
- Contemporary research in early childhood education



We are continually reflecting on and improving our practice to ensure every child experiences the very best start to lifelong learning.



OUR VISION

Every Child Thrives

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, our vision is to create an inclusive learning community where every child is inspired to explore, discover, create and flourish.

We believe that children are naturally curious, capable and competent learners who actively construct knowledge through play, inquiry and meaningful relationships.

Our vision is for every child to:

- Feel safe, valued and respected.
- Develop a strong sense of identity and belonging.
- Build positive relationships with others.
- Become confident communicators.
- Think creatively and critically.
- Develop resilience and independence.
- Care for themselves, others and the environment.
- Experience joy in learning.
- Develop the confidence to ask questions and solve problems.
- Leave kindergarten feeling excited about the transition to school.

Together with families, we aim to nurture lifelong learners who approach the world with curiosity, kindness and confidence.



"Children deserve environments where their ideas matter, their voices are heard, and their potential is celebrated."



100 LANGUAGES

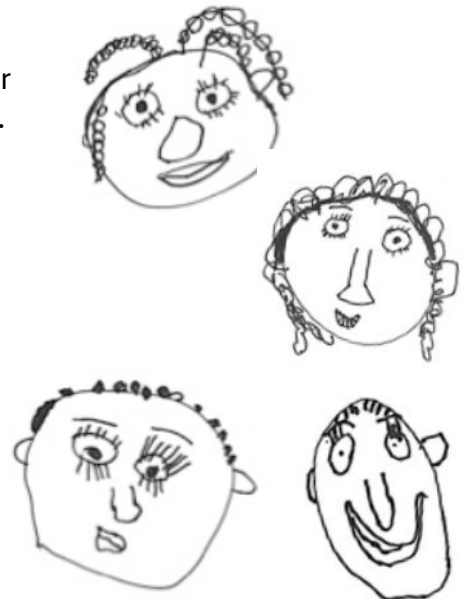
No way. The Hundred is there

The child is made of one hundred.
The child has
a hundred languages
a hundred hands
a hundred thoughts
a hundred ways of thinking
of playing, of speaking.
A hundred. Always a hundred
ways of listening
of marveling, of loving
a hundred joys
for singing and understanding
a hundred worlds
to discover
a hundred worlds
to invent
a hundred worlds
to dream.
The child has
a hundred languages
(and a hundred hundred hundred more)
but they steal ninety-nine.
The school and the culture
separate the head from the body.

They tell the child:
to think without hands
to do without head
to listen and not to speak
to understand without joy
to love and to marvel
only at Easter and at Christmas.
They tell the child:
to discover the world already there
and of the hundred
they steal ninety-nine.
They tell the child:
that work and play
reality and fantasy
science and imagination
sky and earth
reason and dream
are things
that do not belong together.
And thus, they tell the child
that the hundred is not there.
The child says:
No way. The hundred is there.

The poem *The Hundred Languages of Children* by Loris Malaguzzi, founder of the Reggio Emilia approach, reflects our belief that every child is capable, curious and full of potential.

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, we recognise that children express their thinking and understanding in many different ways—through play, art, music, movement, construction, storytelling, nature and relationships. As a Reggio Emilia-inspired preschool, we provide rich learning environments, open-ended materials and uninterrupted time for exploratory creativity and inquiry. We value each child's ideas and interests, supporting them to learn, collaborate, solve problems and develop confidence as capable, lifelong learners.



OUR VALUES

Everything we do at Thorndon Park Kindergarten is guided by our shared values.

Belonging

Children thrive when they feel accepted, safe and connected.

We create a welcoming community where every child and family experiences genuine inclusion and develops meaningful relationships.

Respect

We treat every person with kindness, empathy and dignity.

We value diversity and celebrate each child's unique identity, culture, abilities and perspectives.

Curiosity

Children are natural investigators.

We encourage children to wonder, question, explore and develop their own theories about the world.

Collaboration

Learning is strengthened through relationships.

Children, families and educators work together as partners in learning.

Creativity

Children express themselves in many different ways.

We encourage imagination, innovation and creative thinking through art, music, storytelling, movement, construction and dramatic play.

Sustainability

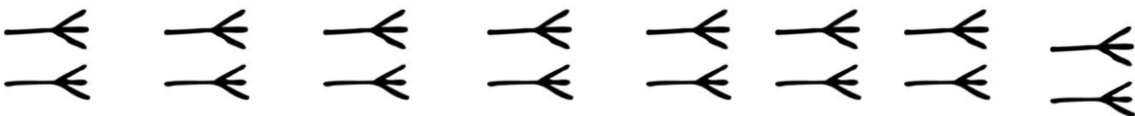
We believe children can become thoughtful caretakers of our environment.

Through everyday experiences, children learn to respect nature, care for Country and make sustainable choices.

Wellbeing

Children learn best when they feel emotionally and physically safe.

We prioritise wellbeing, resilience, confidence and positive relationships in everything we do.



CURIOUS, CAPABLE & CONFIDENT LEARNERS

Growing Curious, Capable and Confident Learners

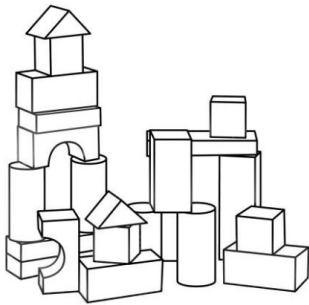
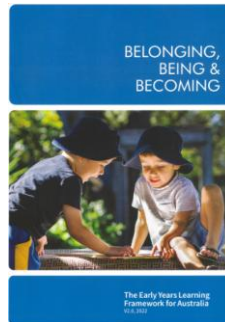
At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, we believe childhood is a time of wonder, exploration and possibility.

Children arrive with endless curiosity, unique experiences and a natural desire to understand the world around them. We recognise every child as a capable and competent learner whose ideas, interests and questions guide meaningful learning.

Our educational program is inspired by the principles of the **Reggio Emilia**, underpinned by the **Early Years Learning Framework V2.0** and informed by contemporary research into child development and learning.

We believe learning happens through:

- Play
- Inquiry
- Relationships
- Creativity
- Nature
- Investigation
- Collaboration
- Reflection



Children are encouraged to make decisions, solve problems, ask questions and contribute to the direction of their learning.

Our educators carefully observe children's interests and intentionally extend learning through meaningful conversations, thoughtfully prepared environments and engaging experiences that provoke curiosity.

We believe that learning is not measured by worksheets or predetermined outcomes, but by children's thinking, confidence, creativity, resilience and growing understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Every child is encouraged to learn at their own pace while feeling supported, challenged and celebrated.

Families are central to this journey, and we value authentic partnerships built on trust, communication and shared aspirations for every child.

CURIOUS, CAPABLE & CONFIDENT LEARNERS

Our Image of the Child

One of the most important beliefs that guides everything we do is our image of the child. We do not see children as empty vessels waiting to be filled with knowledge. Instead, we recognise children as capable, competent and active participants in their own learning.

We believe every child is:

- Curious.
- Creative.
- Intelligent.
- Capable.
- Resilient.
- Confident.
- Resourceful.
- A researcher.
- A problem solver.
- A communicator.
- A collaborator.
- A citizen.
- A leader.
- An artist.
- An inventor.



Children construct knowledge through meaningful experiences, conversations, experimentation and relationships.

Rather than providing all the answers, our educators encourage children to investigate, test ideas, reflect and develop their own understanding.

We celebrate children's strengths while recognising that every child develops in their own unique way.



Child Voice

"I think worms help the garden because they make the dirt happy."

This simple statement demonstrates scientific thinking, empathy for living things and the development of children's own theories about the natural world.

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, children's ideas are valued as important contributions to learning.

OUR IMAGE OF THE EDUCATOR

Our Image of the Educator

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, educators are much more than teachers.

We are researchers, collaborators, mentors and co-learners.

Rather than directing every activity, educators intentionally work alongside children to extend thinking, encourage curiosity and support meaningful learning.

Our educators:

- Build warm, respectful relationships.
- Listen carefully to children's ideas.
- Observe children's interests.
- Ask thoughtful questions.
- Encourage problem solving.
- Foster independence.
- Promote learner agency.
- Create inviting learning environments.
- Support emotional wellbeing.
- Reflect on their practice.
- Work in partnership with families.

Intentional teaching occurs throughout the day in natural and meaningful ways.

An educator may:

- Introduce new vocabulary during block play.
 - Encourage mathematical thinking while cooking.
 - Support scientific inquiry during gardening.
 - Extend literacy through storytelling.
 - Model respectful conversations.
 - Scaffold social interactions.
 - Encourage children to revisit previous ideas.
- Every interaction is viewed as an opportunity for learning.

Reflection

As educators, we continually ask ourselves:

"How can we better support children's thinking?"

"What is this child trying to communicate?"

"How can we extend this investigation?"

"What opportunities can we provide next?"

These reflective questions form the foundation of our ongoing planning and continuous improvement.

**"Our task,
regarding
creativity, is to
help children
climb their own
mountains, as
high as
possible"**

Loris Malaguzzi

ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING @ TPK

Emergent Curriculum

Emergent curriculum encourages children to explore and learn through their own interests and passions. It is child-led learning rather than teacher-directed learning. Educators extend and build on children's learning and critically reflect to identify EYLF Learning Outcomes demonstrated by your child.

Inquiry-based learning

The inquiry approach harnesses the spirit of investigation, creating an engaging and meaningful curriculum that uses children's interests and questions as starting points for effective learning.

Assessment of Children's Learning

Educators collect a range of information about children's learning through:

- Observations of group and individual learning
- Planned and spontaneous play/learning experiences
- Photos
- Belonging portfolio folder
- Documentation of children's oral language and conversations

Children's learning is documented in a way that aligns with the EYLF Planning Cycle.

Please speak to any educator at any time if you have concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing, or if you would like to know how they are progressing at kindergarten. If you would like to have a longer conversation, please make an appointment. All families have the opportunity for a parent-teacher interview (family conversation) at the end of their first term of kindy.

You will receive a Statement of Learning at the end of your child's fourth term at Kindy.



THORNDON PARK STAFF



KATE
DIRECTOR / TEACHER



ESTHER
FULL TIME TEACHER



BIANCA
FULL TIME EDUCATOR



BINBIN
PART TIME TEACHER

STAFF PORTRAITS
ILLUSTRATED BY OUR TPK STUDENTS'

Belonging. Identity. Community.



T-Shirt
\$17.00 AUD



Windcheater
\$27.00 AUD



Bucket Hat Adjustable
\$14.50 AUD

Our **Kindy Essentials** are more than just clothing—they're part of your child's kindergarten journey. From our kindy t-shirt and cosy jumper to our sun-safe hat, each item helps children feel connected to the Thorndon Park Kindergarten community while strengthening their sense of belonging and identity.

Our Kindy Essentials:

- Help children feel part of our kindergarten community.
- Are comfortable and practical for active days of learning through play.
- Make it easy to identify children during excursions and community events.
- Become treasured keepsakes of a year filled with friendships, growth and special memories.

Many families choose to purchase the complete **Kindy Essentials** collection as a meaningful way to celebrate this important milestone. Seeing children wearing their Thorndon Park Kindergarten colours creates a wonderful sense of community and shared identity, while giving children something they can wear with excitement throughout their preschool year.

Our Kindy Essentials include a t-shirt, jumper and sun-safe hat, available to purchase throughout the year. We love seeing our children wearing their kindy colours as they learn, play and grow together.



Our uniforms are available through [EduThreads](#)

OUR TPK UNIFORM

KINDY ESSENTIALS



T-Shirt
\$17.00 AUD



Windcheater
\$27.00 AUD



Bucket Hat Adjustable
\$14.50 AUD

Our uniforms are available through [EduThreads](https://www.eduthreads.co.nz/) who provide family-friendly pricing options. For further pricing and ordering information, please visit their website.



DAILY ROUTINE



At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, our daily routine is thoughtfully designed to provide children with long, uninterrupted periods of play. We know that children learn best when they have the time to become deeply engaged in their ideas, investigations and relationships. These extended play periods allow children to collaborate with others, explore and discover, solve problems, practise new skills, express their creativity and imagination, and develop the confidence, resilience and curiosity that underpin lifelong learning.

Throughout the day, educators intentionally enrich children's play through meaningful interactions, thoughtful questions, and carefully planned learning experiences. We also come together for small and whole-group experiences that foster a strong sense of belonging and community. These intentional teaching opportunities are rich in literacy, numeracy, oral language, music and movement, social and emotional learning, and inquiry, building on children's interests while supporting the skills and understandings they need for future learning.

Our flexible routine responds to children's ideas, interests and developmental needs, ensuring each day is purposeful, engaging and filled with opportunities for every child to learn, grow and thrive.





THORNDON PARK

KINDERGARTEN



Our Routine of the Day

8:15am		ARRIVAL TO KINDY
		INDOOR AND OUTDOOR UNINTERRUPTED PLAY
9:45am		MORNING HEALTHY SNACK TIME
		INDOOR AND OUTDOOR LEARNING
12:00pm		LUNCH TIME
12:40pm		GROUP TIME STORY TIME / RELAXATION AND MUSIC
1:00pm		INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PLAY
2:45pm		GROUP TIME / STORY AND INQUIRY
3:00pm		UNINTERRUPTED PLAY – OUTDOOR PLAY
3:00pm		OPTIONAL AFTERNOON SNACK
3:45pm		HOME TIME



SMALL GROUP WORK HAPPENS THROUGHOUT THE DAY.



Nourishing Growing Minds and Bodies

Healthy Food, Drinks & Lunchboxes

Nourishing Growing Minds and Bodies

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, we believe that healthy eating plays an important role in children's wellbeing, learning, growth and development. Providing children with nutritious food throughout the day helps them to concentrate, participate in learning experiences, regulate their emotions and maintain the energy they need to play, explore and discover.

Food and mealtimes are much more than simply eating. They are valuable learning opportunities where children develop independence, social skills, confidence and healthy lifelong habits. Mealtimes are relaxed, social occasions where children gather together, enjoy conversations with friends and educators, and learn about healthy choices in a supportive environment.

Families are responsible for preparing and packing food and drinks for their child each kindergarten day. We encourage families to pack foods that their child enjoys eating, while also supporting our commitment to healthy eating and nutrition.

Our practices are guided by our **Nutrition, Food, Drink and Dietary Procedure**, which promotes healthy food choices and supports children to develop positive attitudes towards food in accordance with current health recommendations.



MORNING FRUIT & HEALTHY SNACK TIME

Morning Fruit & Healthy Snack Time

Our day begins with a shared **Healthy Fruit & Snack Time**, usually held at approximately **9:45am**.

This is a wonderful opportunity for children to come together as a group, enjoy healthy foods, develop independence and engage in conversations with their peers and educators before continuing with the day's learning.

We encourage families to pack a separate container specifically for morning fruit/snack time. This container should be clearly labelled with your child's name and kept inside your child's bag so it is easily accessible during our morning gathering.

We suggest packing at least **one piece of fruit or a vegetable** each day. Families are also welcome to include another nutritious item that complements the fruit or vegetable, such as:

- Fresh fruit
- Vegetable sticks (carrot, cucumber, capsicum, celery, snow peas)
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cheese cubes or slices
- Plain or natural yoghurt
- Wholegrain crackers
- Rice crackers
- Homemade savoury muffins
- Other nutritious snacks that are low in added sugar, salt and saturated fat



This shared snack time encourages children to enjoy healthy foods together and over time often inspires children to try foods that they see their friends enjoying.



LUNCH

Lunch Time

Lunch is enjoyed at approximately **12:00pm**, when children gather together to share a relaxed meal with their friends and educators.

Lunchboxes are stored safely in our designated lunchbox cabinet located next to our sign in area.

We encourage families to pack foods that their child is familiar with and enjoys eating while aiming to include a variety of nutritious options.

Some healthy lunchbox ideas include:

- Sandwiches / Wraps / Rolls
- Sushi
- Noodles
- Roti
- Wholegrain crackers with cheese
- Homemade pasta
- Rice dishes
- Leftover dinners in a thermos
- Mini frittatas
- Vegetable sticks
- Fruit
- Cheese
- Yoghurt
- Homemade savoury scrolls / pinwheels
- Homemade muffins
- Hummus with vegetables



Some families find that **grazing lunchboxes** work well, where children have a variety of small healthy foods to choose from throughout lunch.

Every child is different, and we encourage you to pack foods that your child enjoys and feels confident eating independently.

AFTERNOON SNACK

Afternoon Snack

As children become hungry again later in the day, we provide an opportunity for an **afternoon snack**, usually at around **3:00pm**.

Children are welcome to finish any remaining food from their lunchbox or morning snack container.

This additional snack supports children's energy levels during the afternoon as they continue participating in play and learning experiences

ENCOURAGING HEALTHY EATING

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, we gently encourage children to eat and drink throughout the day while recognising that every child's appetite varies from day to day.

Our educators:

- Sit alongside children during mealtimes.
- Model positive eating habits.
- Encourage children to listen to their own hunger cues.
- Promote independence when opening containers and managing lunchboxes.
- Support positive conversations around food.
- Encourage children to fuel their bodies for learning and play.



There may be times when your child eats very little while at kindergarten. This is perfectly normal and can occur for many reasons, including excitement, tiredness, changes in routine or simply being more interested in playing.

While educators will encourage children to eat and drink, we **never force children to eat**.

If we notice an ongoing pattern where your child is consistently not eating, we will work in partnership with you to explore possible strategies.

This may include discussing:

- Different food choices your child may prefer
- Portion sizes
- Lunchbox organisation
- Foods that are easier for your child to manage independently
- Timing of meals at home



Our goal is always to support children in developing positive relationships with food.

DRINKS / WATER

Thorndon Park Kindergarten is proudly a **water-friendly kindergarten**.

Children are encouraged to drink water regularly throughout the day to remain hydrated, particularly during outdoor play and warmer weather.

Each child should bring a clearly labelled drink bottle filled with **water only**.

Upon arrival, children place their drink bottles on our **water bottle trolley**, where they remain easily accessible throughout the day.

Please avoid sending:

- Cordial
- Fruit juice
- Soft drink
- Flavoured milk

Water is the healthiest choice and supports children's concentration, wellbeing and overall health.



ALLERGY AWARE

Thorndon Park Kindergarten is an **Allergy Aware Kindergarten**.

To ensure the safety of all children, **please do not pack:**

- Nuts
- Peanut butter
- Nutella
- Nut products
- Muesli bars containing nuts
- Foods that clearly contain nuts or nut ingredients

Some children attending kindergarten have severe allergies and even small amounts of allergens can pose significant health risks.

We appreciate your support in helping us provide a safe environment for every child.



COOKING EXPERIENCES

Cooking is a much-loved part of our educational program and provides rich opportunities for children to learn through meaningful, hands-on experiences.

Throughout the year, children may participate in cooking experiences connected to our inquiries, projects, celebrations, gardening program or seasonal learning.

These experiences support many areas of learning, including:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Science
- Health
- Fine motor development
- Problem solving
- Collaboration
- Following procedures
- Cultural learning
- Sustainability

Cooking also provides children with opportunities to:

- Explore new foods.
- Develop confidence in the kitchen.
- Learn about nutrition.
- Measure ingredients.
- Observe changes during cooking.
- Build independence.
- Experience the enjoyment of preparing food together.

Families will always receive advance notice before cooking experiences take place, including information regarding ingredients and any dietary considerations.

Where required, educators carefully consider allergies, medical plans and dietary requirements to ensure all children can participate safely.



FOOD SAFETY / BIRTHDAYS

Food Safety

To help keep everyone's food fresh and safe, please remember to:

- Clearly label all lunchboxes, snack containers and drink bottles with your child's name.
- Pack foods that your child can manage independently where possible.
- Include an ice brick if required.
- Ensure thermos containers are packed safely and remain securely sealed.

Any uneaten food will be returned home so that families can see how much their child has eaten throughout the day.

Children bring their own food from home and **food is not shared** between children.

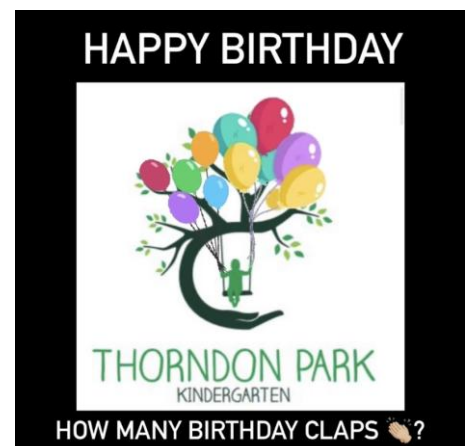
Birthdays

Birthdays are an exciting milestone, and we love celebrating each child's special day.

Children's birthdays are acknowledged by singing "**Happy Birthday**" together and celebrating the child within our kindergarten community.

To support children's health, wellbeing, allergies and dietary requirements, **please do not send birthday cakes, birthday food, party bags or other food treats** to kindergarten.

Our celebrations focus on making every child feel recognised and celebrated through songs, conversations and shared joy rather than food.



NUDE FOOD

Nude Food

As part of our commitment to sustainability and caring for our environment, Thorndon Park Kindergarten follows a **Nude Food** approach.

We encourage families to pack food in reusable containers wherever possible instead of disposable wrappers or single-use packaging.

Throughout the year, children learn about:

- Waste reduction
- Recycling
- Composting
- Caring for our environment
- Sustainable practices
- Making environmentally responsible choices



Small everyday actions help children develop lifelong habits that contribute to caring for our planet.

Thank you for supporting us by reducing packaging wherever possible.

For further information about Nude Food, please visit:

www.wow.sa.gov.au/nude-food.html

WORKING TOGETHER

Healthy eating is a partnership between families and kindergarten.

By working together, we can support children to develop positive relationships with food, healthy eating habits and the confidence to make nutritious choices that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Thank you for partnering with us in supporting your child's health, wellbeing and learning.

CHILDREN'S SAFETY

Children's Safety

The safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority at Thorndon Park Kindergarten. We work in partnership with families to provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment where children feel safe, respected and supported to learn, play and thrive.

Kindergarten Hours

Thorndon Park Kindergarten operates from **8:15am to 3:45pm** each kindergarten day. We encourage children to arrive by **9:00am** so they have time to settle into the learning environment and participate fully in the day's experiences. While drop-off and pick-up times may vary to meet individual family needs, we recommend that children attend for the full day whenever possible to gain the greatest benefit from our educational program and to develop strong relationships with their peers and educators.

Kindergarten Gate

The front gate is open from **8:15am until 9:00am** for morning arrivals. At **9:00am**, the gate is locked and remains secured until **3:00pm**, when it reopens for afternoon collection. If you need to arrive or collect your child outside these times, please ring the doorbell at the front entrance and an educator will assist you as soon as possible. As our priority is always the supervision and safety of children, there may be a short wait. We kindly ask all families to ensure the gate is securely closed and latched each time they enter or leave the kindergarten.





THORNDON PARK

KINDERGARTEN



KINDY HOURS

8:15AM *until* 3:45PM



WITH GATE LOCKED

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM



If you arrive outside these times, please ring the doorbell at the front entrance for assistance.



Thank you for your cooperation in helping us
KEEP OUR CHILDREN AND STAFF SAFE.



CAR PARK

Car Park Safety – Staff Parking Only

Please note that the kindergarten car park is strictly for staff parking only and must not be used by families for drop-off or pick-up. This helps ensure the safety of all children, families and staff as educators may be arriving, departing or moving vehicles throughout the day. Street parking is available nearby.

When arriving and leaving kindergarten, please take extra care around the service. Always hold your child's hand when walking near roads and driveways, supervise siblings closely, use designated footpaths where possible, and remain alert to moving vehicles. Please drive slowly, follow all local parking and road rules, and help us maintain a safe environment for everyone in our kindergarten community.



THORNDON PARK

STAFF CAR PARK ONLY



Authorised Staff Vehicles Only



NO PARENT OR VISITOR PARKING

Thank you for helping us keep
our children and staff safe.



CHILDREN'S SAFETY

Collecting Children

Children will only be released to their parent/guardian or to people authorised on their enrolment record. If someone different is collecting your child, please notify the kindergarten beforehand. For your child's safety, authorised collectors may be asked to provide photo identification.

Signing Children In and Out

Families are required to sign their child in and out each day. This is an important part of our supervision, emergency management and attendance procedures. The sign-in station is located just inside the entrance near the lunchbox and water bottle stations. Any changes to collection arrangements can also be communicated to educators.

Attendance and Absences

If your child will be absent, please notify the kindergarten as soon as possible and advise the reason for their absence. Attendance is recorded daily as part of our regulatory requirements.

Photography and Digital Technology

Children's privacy and safety are protected through our digital technology procedures. Educators only use Department for Education-issued devices to take photographs or videos of children, and only with family consent. Personal devices are not used by staff while working directly with children. We kindly ask families and visitors not to photograph or film other children during kindergarten events or celebrations and to minimise the use of mobile phones in children's learning areas. Please do not send personal digital devices to kindergarten unless they are required to support your child's health or learning needs and have been discussed with the Director.

Emergency Procedures

To help children feel confident and prepared, we practise emergency evacuation, shelter-in-place and lockdown drills each term. These rehearsals are conducted in a calm, age-appropriate manner so children become familiar with the procedures without causing unnecessary concern. Emergency plans are displayed at the kindergarten entrances and exits.

Child Protection and Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum

Thorndon Park Kindergarten is committed to providing a safe environment where every child feels secure, respected and protected. All educators are trained in child protection and have a legal responsibility to respond to concerns about a child's safety and wellbeing in accordance with the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* and Department for Education policies and procedures.

As part of our commitment to children's safety and wellbeing, we teach the **Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum** through everyday learning experiences and intentional teaching. Using age-appropriate, play-based approaches, children develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to recognise and respond to situations where they may feel unsafe. They learn about respectful relationships, identifying trusted adults, understanding their rights, recognising and expressing emotions, seeking help when needed, and strategies to keep themselves and others safe. By embedding this curriculum into our program, we empower children to develop confidence, resilience and a strong sense of belonging while supporting their overall wellbeing.



Personal mobile device-free area

Help us keep children
in our care safe!

Ask us about our safe use
of digital technologies policy



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

HEALTH, SAFETY, MEDICAL & WELLBEING

Health, Safety and Medical Needs

Supporting the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is a shared responsibility between families and educators. At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, we work closely with families to ensure all children can participate safely and confidently in our kindergarten program.

Medical Conditions

It is the responsibility of parents and caregivers to provide accurate and up-to-date information regarding their child's medical condition(s), allergies or health needs. This information is essential in enabling educators to provide appropriate care and support while your child is attending kindergarten.

If emergency medical treatment is required, educators will seek immediate assistance from the appropriate medical service (e.g. ambulance, doctor or hospital). Parents and caregivers are responsible for any costs associated with emergency medical treatment or ambulance services.

Health Care Plans

Children with a diagnosed medical condition are required to have the following in place before attending kindergarten:

- A current **Action Plan** completed by a medical practitioner.
- A **Health Support Plan** and **Safety and Risk Management Plan**, developed collaboratively between the family and the kindergarten.
- Any prescribed medication required for your child, which must be kept at the kindergarten at all times.

Medication must be supplied in its original packaging with a pharmacy label clearly displaying your child's name, dosage and instructions. Families are responsible for ensuring medication remains in date and replacing it as required. To ensure your child's safety, children cannot attend kindergarten until all required documentation and medication have been provided.

Medication

If your child requires medication to be administered by educators during kindergarten hours (e.g. antibiotics), a **Medication Agreement** completed by the treating doctor is required. Please note that educators are unable to administer the first dose of any medication.

If your child requires medication, please consider whether they are well enough to attend kindergarten. Over-the-counter medications cannot be administered unless supported by a completed Medication Agreement from your child's doctor. For the safety of all children, medication must never be stored in children's bags and should always be handed directly to an educator.



HEALTH, SAFETY, MEDICAL & WELLBEING

Illness

If your child is showing signs of illness, we ask that they remain at home until they are well enough to return to kindergarten. If a child becomes unwell while attending kindergarten, educators will provide appropriate care and contact a parent, caregiver or emergency contact to arrange collection.

Please notify the kindergarten if your child has a contagious illness so we can help minimise the spread of illness within our community. If your child will be absent from kindergarten, please notify the kindy by either ringing or emailing us and advising the reason for their absence.

Incidents and Injuries

If your child experiences a minor incident or injury at kindergarten (such as a cut, graze or bump), educators will provide appropriate first aid and record the details in an Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record. Families will be informed of the incident and asked to acknowledge the record.

You will be contacted by phone if your child experiences a **head injury**, or any significant incident or injury that may require further medical assessment or treatment. Where necessary, educators will seek emergency medical assistance without delay and families will be kept informed throughout the process.

OUR VISION IS A **CULTURE** WHERE
EVERYONE **CONTRIBUTES** TO THE

HEALTH & SAFETY WELLBEING

of each other



WHAT TO BRING TO KINDERGARTEN

What to Wear

Children should wear comfortable clothing and enclosed footwear that supports active play, exploration and independence. At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, we offer both **indoor and outdoor learning experiences throughout the day**, allowing children the freedom to move between environments as they learn, investigate and play.

We value hands-on, play-based learning and actively encourage children to engage in experiences such as painting, clay, mud play, gardening, water play, sand play and other sensory explorations. These experiences are an important part of children's learning, creativity, wellbeing and development. We encourage children to fully participate, even if it means getting a little messy! For this reason, we recommend clothing that can get dirty and is easy for your child to manage independently. Simple clothing without difficult buttons, belts or fastenings also helps children confidently use the bathroom and develop self-help skills.

What to Bring

Please ensure your child brings the following each kindergarten day:

- A named bag or backpack.
- A healthy morning snack and lunch in a clearly labelled lunchbox.
- A named water bottle.
- A complete change of labelled clothing (including underwear and socks) packed in a plastic or waterproof bag.
- Any required medication or medical equipment, provided directly to an educator.

As children regularly participate in messy, creative and outdoor learning experiences, it is essential that they bring a complete change of clothes each day. Spare clothing ensures children can continue enjoying all aspects of the kindergarten program comfortably if they become wet or messy.



Lost Property

Please clearly label all of your child's belongings, including clothing, shoes, hats, bags, lunchboxes and drink bottles. Named items are much easier to return to their owner.

TOILETING

We encourage children to develop confidence and independence in managing their own toileting routines. Learning these self-help skills is an important part of children's growing independence and supports their confidence, wellbeing and successful participation in the kindergarten program.

We ask families to support their child at home to practise:

- Recognising when they need to use the toilet.
- Going to the toilet independently.
- Pulling clothing up and down.
- Wiping themselves after using the toilet.
- Flushing the toilet.
- Washing and drying their hands thoroughly with soap and water.

Children learn best when expectations are consistent between home and kindergarten.

Practising these routines at home and encouraging your child to complete each step independently helps build confidence and prepares them for the kindergarten environment. Our educators will always provide gentle reminders, encouragement and reassurance as children continue to develop these skills.

We understand that toileting independence is a learning process and that accidents may happen, particularly during times of excitement, illness or change. Children will always be supported with dignity, privacy and respect.

If your child is still toilet training or requires ongoing assistance with toileting please speak with an educator. Together, we can develop an **Individual Continence Care Plan** to ensure your child receives consistent, respectful and appropriate support throughout the day.

To further support your child's independence, we recommend dressing them in comfortable, practical clothing with **elastic waistbands** wherever possible. Clothing that is easy to pull up and down allows children to manage toileting more independently and confidently. Where possible, please avoid clothing that can be difficult to manage, such as overalls, belts, braces, bodysuits or garments with complicated buttons or fastenings.

Please also pack a complete change of clothes, including underwear and socks, in your child's bag each day in case they need them.

By working together, families and educators can support children to become confident, capable and independent in managing their own self-care, laying important foundations for a successful transition to school.

SUNSMART SAFETY

SunSmart

Thorndon Park Kindergarten is a proud **SunSmart service** and follows Cancer Council South Australia's SunSmart recommendations to protect children from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

Sun protection is required whenever the **UV Index is forecast to reach 3 or above**, regardless of the temperature or season. We ask families to apply sunscreen to their child before arriving at kindergarten each morning. Educators support children to develop independence by encouraging and assisting them to reapply sunscreen after morning snack and again after lunch.

A **SunSmart-approved hat** is required whenever the UV Index is 3 or above. Each child is provided with a kindergarten hat to use during outdoor learning. Hats must provide adequate sun protection, such as a broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style hat. **Baseball caps are not suitable as they do not provide adequate sun protection.**

We ask that each child brings their own **clearly labelled roll-on sunscreen** to kindergarten each day. This supports children to develop independence, efficiency and responsibility for their own sun protection, building important self-help skills that will support their transition to school.

Roll-on sunscreen allows children to practise applying sunscreen more independently and efficiently as part of our SunSmart routine. Sunscreen is available at the kindergarten if needed. If your child requires a specific sunscreen due to allergies or medical needs, please provide a clearly labelled product and discuss this with the Director so appropriate health support documentation can be completed.

Children who do not have appropriate sun protection may be required to play in shaded areas or participate in alternative activities to support their health and safety.



Bucket Hat Adjustable

\$14.50 AUD



COMMUNICATION & PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, we believe strong relationships and open communication between families and educators are essential in supporting children's learning, wellbeing and sense of belonging. Providing a high-quality kindergarten experience is a shared responsibility, and we value the knowledge, experiences and perspectives that families bring to our community.

Educators will seek regular feedback and information from families and will share updates about children's learning, experiences and the kindergarten program. We welcome informal conversations wherever possible and encourage families to make a time to meet with educators or the Director if they would like to discuss their child's learning, development or wellbeing in more detail.

Information shared by families regarding personal circumstances or family matters will always be treated with respect and confidentiality.

Please feel welcome to contact Thorndon Park Kindergarten with any questions or concerns. We will respond to messages as soon as possible.

If your child will be absent, please notify the kindergarten by phone or email on the day of absence preferably before 9:30am.

Thorndon Park Kindergarten Contact Details

Kindergarten Phone: 8336 14 22

Kindergarten Mobile: 0477 337 913

Email: dl.4670.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

Email is used regularly to share newsletters, important updates, reminders and information about upcoming events. Please ensure your family contact details, including your email address, remain current and notify educators if your details change or you are not receiving communications.

THORNDON PARK HAS A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER SENT TO FAMILIES EVERY FRIDAY

Parent Conversations

Throughout the year, families will have opportunities to connect with educators through both informal conversations and scheduled meetings. These conversations provide an opportunity to share information, celebrate children's progress, discuss learning goals and work together to support each child's individual needs.

COMMUNICATION & PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES

Website

Families can access important kindergarten information, including our Kindergarten Handbook, Quality Improvement Plan and relevant policies, through our website:



Changes to Family Details

Please notify educators as soon as possible if there are any changes to your contact details, home address, work details or emergency contacts. Keeping our records up to date ensures we can contact families quickly and appropriately when needed.

Family Contact List

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, we value the connections and friendships that develop between children and families. A voluntary Family Contact List has been created to support families in building connections outside of kindergarten.

Families who choose to participate can use this list to organise kindergarten-related social opportunities, such as meeting at local parks or arranging play opportunities with other kindergarten friends. Participation is optional, and information shared through the contact list should only be used for the purpose of strengthening connections within our kindergarten community.

COMMUNICATION & PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES

INSTAGRAM

Follow our Instagram page to stay connected with Thorndon Park Kindergarten! You'll find glimpses of our children's learning, creative experiences, emerging inquiries and the wonderful thinking happening throughout our kindergarten community.



@THORNDONPARKKINDERGARTEN

COMMUNICATION & PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES

Children love sharing their Belonging Books with friends and family! These special books capture meaningful moments, learning experiences, friendships and celebrations from their time at kindy, creating a treasured record of each child's journey. They provide opportunities for children to revisit experiences, share their thinking, celebrate their growth and reflect on their learning and developing milestones. Belonging Books connect with the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF V2.0), supporting children's sense of identity, belonging and confidence as capable and active learners.



IMMUNISATIONS

Immunisations

Thorndon Park Kindergarten is committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of all children in our kindergarten community. In accordance with the **South Australian Public Health Act 2011**, families are required to provide current immunisation records for their child before commencing kindergarten.

Families must provide an **“Up to Date” Australian Immunisation History Statement** at least one month prior to their child starting kindergarten. An updated statement must also be provided within four months of your child receiving their **4-year-old immunisations**.

Keeping immunisation records current is an important part of protecting the health and safety of all children, families and staff within our kindergarten community.

OTHER SERVICES

Student Support Services (SSS)

The Department for Education's speech pathologists, inclusive educators, behaviour coaches, social workers and psychologists work with kindergarten staff and families to provide support for children when needed. Family consent will be requested before engagement with the SSS team.

CAFHS Health Checks

Each term, **Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS)** nurses visit Thorndon Park Kindergarten to offer free health and development checks for eligible children.

These appointments provide an opportunity for a qualified Child and Family Health Nurse to assess your child's **vision, hearing, growth and overall development**, helping to identify any areas where additional support or follow-up may be beneficial before they begin school.

Health checks are generally available for children **aged 4 years and 3 months and older**.

Appointment dates will be advertised in the kindergarten newsletter and are approximately **30 minutes** in length. A **parent or caregiver must attend the appointment** with their child.

These checks are optional but are a valuable way to support your child's health, wellbeing and successful transition to school.

FEES / GOVERNING COUNCIL / VOLUNTEERING

💰 KINDY FEES & INVOICES 💰

Central Office manages kindy finances. With this change there have been some adjustments as new systems and processes are being introduced.

Invoices are sent each semester.

Fees can be paid in whichever way works best for your family:

- **In full for the semester (TERM 1 & TERM 2) (TERM 3 & 4)**
- **In instalments**
- **Term by term**

👉 Governing Council We Need You! 👉

We would absolutely **love more families to join our Governing Council.**

Governing Council is a great way to:

- connect with other families
- hear about what is happening at kindy
- contribute ideas and perspectives
- support decision making around policies and the direction of the kindy

Having family voices involved is incredibly important in helping the kindy operate effectively and reflect the needs of our community.

If you are interested in joining, please speak with the kindy team.

✔ Volunteer Requirements & Governing Council Requirements

We know that organising the required courses for volunteering can sometimes feel like **a bit of a task**, and we truly appreciate the time families put into completing them.

These include:

- **RRHAN-EC (Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care)**
- **Working With Children Check (WWCC)**
- **GECKO TRAINING**

While these courses do take time and we understand how busy family life can be, they are **essential in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children** and that all practices are followed appropriately.

These requirements can also be helpful later when **volunteering at schools or joining Governing Councils once children begin school.**

Thank you for supporting these important safety practices.

ENROLMENT IN SCHOOL & SCHOOL TRANSITION

Enrolment in School and Transition to School

Starting school is an exciting milestone for children and families. It is the responsibility of families to enrol their child at their local school or a school of their choice. Attendance at Thorndon Park Kindergarten does **not** guarantee a position at any particular primary school.

Throughout the year, children participate in a **transition to school program** to support their confidence, independence and readiness for school. This may include visits to local schools, opportunities to become familiar with school environments, and experiences that support children's social and emotional wellbeing as they prepare for this next step.

Families are responsible for taking their child to school visits and collecting them afterwards.

Please note that Thorndon Park Kindergarten operates independently from local schools. While we work closely with families and schools to support a smooth transition, we are unable to provide advice or answer specific questions regarding school enrolments, placements or school-specific procedures. Families are encouraged to contact their chosen school directly for further information.



YOUR VOICE MATTERS

We genuinely value the voices and perspectives of our families.

If you have:

- Ideas
- Suggestions
- Questions
- Feedback

Please feel free to **speak with the kindy staff at any time.**

Working together helps us continue to **strengthen our learning program and community connections.**



PHONE:

(08) 8336 1422

EMAIL:

dl.4670.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

ADDRESS:

13 Nestor Street, Athelstone SA 5076