

# Houghton Preschool

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**1376 Lower North East Road**

Houghton SA

Telephone: (08) 8380 5300

*Working in partnership with Paracombe Primary School*

## Information for families

**Welcome to all families.**

**Parents and families are children's first teacher.**

*We encourage you to be involved with your own and other children during Preschool sessions. If you have any special skills or interests or would like to be involved in any way please let staff know.*

*This booklet has been prepared to introduce our Preschool and to ensure that all families are familiar with the programs we implement and our core values. Copies of specific policies are always available on request. We hope that both you and your child enjoy growing and learning together in our preschool community.*

## Statement of Purpose

We provide high quality and balanced learning programs that value and develop children's learning, well being and physical, social and emotional development.

We believe that children learn best when they are happy and in a safe, secure, caring and positive environment. At Houghton Preschool we aim to: provide a place of learning where all children feel they belong; build and maintain relationships; develop a sense of identity; are intrinsically motivated to engage in interesting and stimulating learning activities.

In order to achieve this type of learning environment we: offer a stimulating preschool environment where every family is personally greeted each morning; acknowledge different personalities and build positive relationships with each child and their family; offer stimulating learning opportunities that reflect children's likes, interests and abilities; celebrate students learning by displaying work and photos; actively engage in play with each child; and allow children's interest and investigations to lead the program and their learning.

*If you would like to see our philosophy statement in more detail, please don't hesitate to ask.*

## Preschool Session Times

### Preschool

Monday 9:00 - 12 noon

Tuesday 9:00 - 3:00 pm

Wednesday 9:00 - 3:00 pm

4 year old children are able to attend 15 hours per week for up to 4 consecutive terms prior to starting school.

Some children are eligible to attend preschool for longer than 1 year, under special circumstances such as special needs, English as a second language, children under the Guardianship of the Minister and Aboriginal Children.

If you believe your child may qualify for extra time at kindy, please feel free to discuss this with us.

**Free lunch care is offered for the full day sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday.** Children are required to bring their own healthy lunch.

### Playgroup

**Friday Mornings** during school terms, **9:30 – 11:00 am**

A parent-run playgroup, affiliated with the Preschool, operates in the Preschool grounds on Fridays. Playgroup is a great places to meet other parents. \$20 per term .

**Everyone welcome!**

## What to bring

- A named bag for carrying belongings, which will be placed in a locker inside the Preschool.
- A broad brimmed or legionnaires hat
- A piece of fruit for morning snack shared fruit time, a named lunchbox with a healthy lunch. Lunch boxes can be left in bags or in the fridge if there are foods that require refrigeration.
- Bring a labelled bottle of water only.
- A change of clothes to be kept in your child's preschool bag. This is handy if children get wet from play or have an accident. Some spare clothes are available, but children often feel more comfortable in their own clothes.

**Please note:** We ask that children do not bring their own toys to Preschool. There is always a risk that they me be lost or damaged which can cause distress to your child, your family and staff.

## What to wear

**Please dress your child in comfortable play clothes.**

We encourage a 'hands on' approach to play which can be messy at times and we don't want children to not participate for fear of their clothes getting dirty.

Please ensure **clothing is easily removable** for when your child goes to the toilet. Some clothing can be difficult to manage in a hurry which can cause unnecessary distress for your child. Please also be mindful of sun smart clothing such as sleeves rather than tank tops in the hotter weather.

**Shoes with support** such as sneakers or sandals are great. Please do not send your child in thongs or 'slip ons' as they can be inappropriate for activities such as climbing, balancing, running etc.

## Fees

Preschool fees are set by the Houghton Primary School Governing Council and are reviewed regularly. All families will be invoiced for Preschool fees each term.

Sessional Preschool    \$80 per term (15 hours per week)

Playgroup                \$20 per term

Payments are to be made each term to the office or online at Paracombe Primary School. A receipt will then be placed in your child's pockets.

## Curriculum

All learning opportunities and activities that are offered to your child are linked to The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia. This Framework focuses on five broad learning outcomes.

- 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

Within each of the five broad outcomes there are descriptive key components of learning that children will be working towards. The curriculum and our planning of activities reflect that all children learn in a variety of ways and vary in their capabilities and pace of learning. Our planned learning activities are flexible, enabling individual student interests and inquiries to be embraced and supported. Individual areas of development are catered for in our program. Our programming and planning of activities is guided by the children to ensure we provide relevant and intrinsically motivating learning activities.

In early childhood, play is a context for learning that has a big impact on children's physical, social, emotional, creative, cognitive and communicative development. A large component of our program is play based. This does not mean that children are left to play for the whole day. Play can be individual, guided and constructed. We engineer the learning environment and activities to enable

your child to learn specific outcomes and goals through various forms of adult and child directed play.

If you would like more information about the Early Years Learning Framework you may wish to visit the following site: [www.deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood](http://www.deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood). Click on 'Programs' on the right hand side and then on 'Early Childhood Education'. This will give you 'The Early Years Framework' link to click on.

### **Governing Council**

As we are a school based Preschool, we are a part of the Paracombe Primary School Governing Council. The governing council meets twice a term to discuss and make decisions about the running of the School and Preschool.

The members include the Principal, school staff member and parents elected by the school/Preschool community.

The governing council aims to provide a forum for two-way communication between the staff/school/preschool and the parents/school/preschool community.

All members of the school and preschool community are welcome to join Governing Council or attend meetings.

**Please consider joining the Governing Council!**

### **Volunteers**

We welcome parent involvement and encourage you to assist in the Preschool, especially if you have any talents or areas of interest.

### **Special Rights**

The Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) provides special services through our District Office. Services available include Speech Therapy, Hearing Impairment Services, Behaviour Management, Special Education, access to a psychologist and referral to other agencies.

If you feel your child needs access to any of these services please see the teacher or school Principal.