



**Morgan Primary School**  
*We Strive With Pride*

# Preschool Information Handbook 2023



***“A place where children laugh, play and learn”***

**Fourth Street  
Morgan SA 5320  
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# Our Philosophy Statement - WHAT WE BELIEVE IN

At Morgan Preschool we believe that each child is individual, unique and important, and has the right to develop to their full potential. By working in partnership with families we gain an understanding of each child and what they know, understand and can do. This knowledge is used to inform intentional teaching to further develop children's agency, strengths and capacities.

We believe children thrive when families, community and educators work together in partnership to support children's learning. Educators use a range of communication methods to develop relationships with families and children that are respectful and reciprocal. We recognise that parents and families are children's first and most influential educators, therefore families and children's voices are included in the design of our child centred program.

**'A place where children laugh, play and learn'**

## National Quality Standards

Every early childhood site including preschools in Australia is required to be accredited by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACEQA). The purpose is to provide a guide for parents and local communities in choosing quality education and care for their children. Accreditation is an ongoing process at the Morgan Preschool, whereby the staff and Governing Council regularly evaluate centre equipment, environments, policies and practices to ensure a very high standard is maintained. If you would like more information about the National Quality Standards [www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au)

*Working in partnership together for Education, Care, Health, Parenting and Community Development*

The National Law and National Regulations apply to all education and care services. For more information please visit the links below:

The Education and Care Services National Law is available at:

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-law-regulations/national-law>.

The Education and Care Services National Regulations is available at:

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-law-regulations/national-regulations>.



# Staff

The Department for Education (DfE) Children's Centre is staffed by qualified early childhood teachers, educators and support professionals.

**The staff team at Morgan Preschool:**

**Principal:** Carol Colbert

**Early Years Educator:** Jamie Sheridan

**Front Reception / School Support Officer:** Jo Jericho

**School Support Officer / Preschool Support:** Rie Uchida

**Pastoral Support Worker:** Renee Floyd

# Children's Curriculum

Our educators are guided by version 2.0 of the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia.

## ***Belonging, Being, Becoming***

The aim of the *Belonging, Being and Becoming* is to support early childhood providers, teachers and educators to extend and enrich children's learning from birth to 5 years and through the transition to school.

VISION		
BELONGING, BEING AND BECOMING		
PRINCIPLES	PRACTICES	LEARNING OUTCOMES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships</li> <li>Partnerships</li> <li>Respect for diversity</li> <li>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives</li> <li>Equity, inclusion and high expectations</li> <li>Sustainability</li> <li>Critical reflection and ongoing professional learning</li> <li>Collaborative leadership and teamwork</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holistic, integrated and interconnected approaches</li> <li>Responsiveness to children</li> <li>Play-based learning and intentionality</li> <li>Learning environments</li> <li>Cultural responsiveness</li> <li>Continuity of learning and transitions</li> <li>Assessment and evaluation for learning, development and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children have a strong sense of identity</li> <li>Children are connected with and contribute to their world</li> <li>Children have a strong sense of wellbeing</li> <li>Children are confident and involved learners</li> <li>Children are effective communicators</li> </ul>

## Preschool Times

### Even Weeks

Monday and Tuesday

9:00am – 3.00pm

### Odd Weeks

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

9.00am – 3.00pm

The preschool is closed on public holidays and school holidays.

## Preschool Services

Children are eligible to access 15 hours of preschool per week (including Universal Access)

Morgan Preschool provides a total of 10 x 3 hour sessions per fortnight with children attending 3 full days one week and 2 full days the following week over 40 weeks.

South Australia will introduce a mid-year intake in to preschool from 2023 and for school reception from 2024.

From 2023 children who turn 4 years old:

- Before 1<sup>st</sup> May continue to start at the beginning of the year.
- From 1<sup>st</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> Oct start preschool through the mid-year intake at the start of term 3 of that year.
- After 31<sup>st</sup> Oct start preschool at the beginning of the following year.

Children will undertake 4 terms (1 year) of preschool, regardless of whether they start at the beginning of the year, or through a mid-year intake.

If your child has special needs or you have concerns in regards to their development and how this impacts on their preschool or school readiness, please see the principal or preschool teacher. Your child is not legally required to start school until the age of six.

## Student Support Services

Children's needs can be discussed with the early years teacher or principal, and consultation and requests for additional support can occur with the Student Support Services team if necessary, to support your child's development within their time at preschool.

Further information for parents on the process/service can be found at:

<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning>

## Home to preschool transition – Term 2 and 4

Our program is integrated with the preschool sessions, the children intermingle and freely participate in all available learning experiences within the centre. The children enjoy fruit time together, inside or outside, as well as joining together to share stories, language and music activities. An enrolment form is to be completed for each child prior to the commencement of the program.

If your child is unable to attend their session, please notify the school.



## Commencing preschool

On the first day please ensure that you can be easily contacted. If your child is upset we will call you. We encourage you to say "goodbye" to your child before leaving so that they become familiar with you leaving them at the preschool. This is better than 'sneaking out' while they are engaged in play and then discovering you are gone when they look up, this is important to help develop children's trust and sense of security.

**"Orientation" is very flexible** and will be negotiated between parents, the primary caregiver and the principal.

## Playgroup

Our playgroup for 0 to 5 years olds is lead jointly with MPS school community and families, with everyone helping to set up and pack away the resources and equipment. Cost is free.

**Playgroup times for Terms 1 – 4 2023 As follows: Fridays 9.00 – 10.30am**

## Preschool Fees

Given the importance of maintaining a rich and broad curriculum for your child, the Governing Council have asked for your support through prompt payment of fees. Early notice is given so that you can budget accordingly.

Fees are set by the Governing Council and are reviewed yearly. Your child's fees are a vital component of the kindy budget; fees go towards buying paint, paper, educational resources, photocopying, utility costs, centre cleaning etc.

### **PAYMENT OF FEES**

- Cash or cheque
- EFT from your nominated bank account into Morgan Primary School account.

#### **Direct Debit**

#### **Commonwealth Bank**

**BSB: 065-521**

**Account Number: 10012585**

**(Please note we do not have credit card facilities on our site)**

Parents will be invoiced each term and are asked to **pay each term in full** by the end of that term. You may arrange weekly/ fortnightly payments options with the school finance officer. All fees paid in cash/cheque are to be paid at the front office of Morgan Primary School (located next to the preschool)

#### **Preschool fees:**

\$70.00 per term

Total: x 4 terms = \$280 per year

## What your child will need to bring:

### All items need to be clearly named.

- Healthy lunch, snack and water bottle
- Kindy bag

• Wear practical clothing and footwear, an additional change of clothes

**SPF 30+ or higher sunscreen** will be supplied by the preschool and applied throughout the day. Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen to their child on arrival at the centre. If your child has any allergies towards sunscreen you will need to provide appropriate sunscreen for your child and advise staff.



**All items brought to the preschool MUST be clearly named. The preschool cannot take responsibility for any items which may get lost.**

## Healthy Eating Policy:

### FAMILIES: Food Supply

Parents are encouraged to supply fresh fruit and vegetables at fruit time and a healthy lunch to:

- Provide children with important minerals and vitamins
- Encourage a taste for healthy foods.
- Provide water only.
- Encourage chewing which promotes oral muscle development.

Morgan preschool requests that families do not send items such as: cakes, sweets, chips, cordials, fruit juice etc

Families whose children require special diets or have specific food allergies (anaphylaxis and severe allergy) or who require oral eating and drinking support, to ensure that the site has a good understanding of that child's needs and a support plan is in place.



## Excursions

Excursions facilitate children's understanding of their world and provide opportunities to learn which cannot always be provided in the preschool. Children at Morgan Preschool participate in local excursions including visits to the school, gully and the Morgan Community Library. Any excursion further from the preschool or involving transport will be planned well in advance, and a consent form will be issued to families. Appropriate safety requirements for excursions are worked out by staff, depending on the type of activity and the age of the children. Qualified staff will be present at all times.

## Emergency and evacuation procedures

The wellbeing and safety of our children, staff and families is a main priority here at Morgan Primary School. During the preschool year your child will be trained in the necessary emergency procedures. He/she will learn how to react, where to assemble, and what to expect in an emergency situation.

Please contact the school of centre staff if you have any questions or comments about our emergency preparations.

## Security and Collection of Children

The preschool is open from 9.00am. Preschool parents are asked to stay with their children and help them settle in. Preschool finishes at 3.00pm.

**We aim:** To provide an environment where children and parents feel safe and secure.

This is a matter of great importance to the educators, as well as to you as a parent. If you sometimes arrange another person to bring or to pick up your child, please make sure that the procedures are clearly understood.

Please sign the attendance register alongside your child's name. Each child should be placed in the care of the educator before you go. At the end of the session he/she will be released only to the parent or person nominated with approved collection authority, as in writing on their enrolment form. (In an emergency the preschool may be notified by phone.) Parents must let a staff member know if someone else will be collecting their child and that person must be on the enrolment form as an approved collection authority and they must provide current identification when collecting children if they are unknown to staff. Staff must be notified when children are leaving (even if a staff member is present and that you think that they have seen you, please tell them personally.)

Where there is a custody order the school needs to retain a copy of the details on file. Parents must communicate in writing any specific restrictions relevant to their child.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE AS YOU ENTER AND LEAVE, THAT THE DOORS AND GATES ARE SECURELY CLOSED.**





## Communicating with Parents

The notice board in the veranda will be used for general information. Information specific to families and the program will be displayed on the program board near the Preschool 'Sign-in' table. Seesaw is our preferred method of online communication and is a service to share photos of your child's learning journey.

Other information, including fee invoices and newsletters, will be placed in the individual children's notice pockets. Parents are encouraged to discuss any issues with the staff or Principal. Your comments and thoughts about your child's interests and strengths are an important part of the program and staff look forward to sharing the planning of a quality program for your child. Sometimes arrival and departure times are stressful and busy for you and the staff. If you have a particular issue, concern or query about your child you may prefer to ring us later in the day, or arrange a confidential chat with the Early Years Educator or Principal.

Throughout your child's time at Morgan Preschool meetings can be arranged with the educator or Principal to discuss any matters which are of importance to you and your child. Please communicate your ideas and knowledge about your child's development and interests, so that we can form a positive partnership which will build a strong foundation for future learning.

## Grievance Procedure for Parents

If you feel you have a grievance, or are unhappy or uncomfortable with any aspect of your child's care, you are encouraged to discuss this concern, in the first instance, with your child's Educator.

If this is not possible / appropriate, or the matter is still unresolved, the Principal should then be approached. Parents are also able to contact the Customer Feedback Unit on 1800 677 435 if their grievance is unable to be resolved at any other level.

## Transition to school

Children attending Morgan Preschool attend orientation / transition programs and have several visits at the school. This is organised during session times throughout the year. The educator visits with the children, to ensure they are feeling comfortable and secure. Your child will also attend three official transition days at the end of term four. Throughout your child's time at Morgan Preschool, visits to the school and from the school are very much a part of the curriculum. For children attending other schools, the school of your choice will make contact with you as required. The children attending other schools benefit from the same opportunities to develop their confidence and skills as they join in learning experiences at Morgan Primary School. (A detailed transition letter will be provided)

## Policies

Morgan Primary and Preschool reviews its philosophy and policies regularly to ensure that they are still relevant to the users of the school. Governing Council review policies as required. Policies are available to view either on the Morgan Primary School website or copies are available at the front office.  
<https://morganps.sa.edu.au/>

## Behaviour Guidance

Morgan Primary School and Preschool is strongly committed to providing a positive environment for young children. Behaviour guidance practices endorse the 'Circle of Security' principles and encourage a focus on the positives in accordance to the Behaviour Guidance Code.

**Dress for mess:** As part of the Preschool's programs children will be encouraged to play with sand, water, dough, clay and other potentially messy materials. Children are also encouraged to practise independent self-help skills such as eating, drinking and washing hands. We suggest that you dress your child in clothes that children can manage themselves and won't matter if they get dirty. We cannot guarantee that stains will not happen.

## Immunisation: No Jab, No Play - Law

Susceptible children may now be excluded from early childhood services by the chief public health officer during the outbreak of a disease that can be prevented by vaccination.

This law came into effect on 1 July, with changes to the [South Australian Public Health Act 2011](#).

It has sometimes been referred to as 'No jab, no play' legislation in the media.

Services such as child care, family day care, preschool, kindergarten and early learning centers are included in this law.

Early childhood services will have to keep immunisation records of children attending their service from August 2020.

## Accidents:

Children are not left unattended either inside or outside. Every effort is made to prevent accidents, however, should an accident occur the staff will take appropriate action, according to the preschool's policies. An accident report form is kept showing details of the date, time, and nature of the accident. This report must be read and signed by the person collecting the child.

## Illness:

When your child is ill, every effort is made to notify the parent/guardian or emergency contact people. In some instances, a child may be required to be collected. This will be advised in consultation with the early year's educator. If immediate medical attention is required and the parent/guardian or emergency contact people are not available an ambulance will be called.

## Ambulance:

Should an ambulance be required, every effort will be made to contact the parents/guardians or emergency contact person on their enrolment form.

## Notification of Illness:

In the event of a communicable disease, a notice will be displayed on the foyer notice board.

**Medical Fees:** The preschool is not responsible or liable for any medical fees or other costs which may arise from medical treatment sought whilst the child is at the preschool, or as a result of the child being at the preschool. Parents are asked to be equally concerned in maintaining high health standards, and observe the following points: For the safety of other children, as well as your own, please do not bring a sick child to the preschool. Keep your child home for the recommended time for communicable diseases.

If children have illnesses which are infectious or contagious, or if they are unwell, they are to be withdrawn from the preschool. This preschool does not have the facilities to look after sick children. Please notify the front office and the educator if your child has any contagious illnesses, and be aware of the speed with which such illnesses such as conjunctivitis and upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) can spread.

Please ensure that the preschool has been advised and is up to date with any allergies your child may have to food, medicines, creams etc. (refer to enrolment form)

The preschool is a totally smoke free environment.

## Medical Conditions

### Aim:

To ensure children's health and safety through the appropriate management of medical conditions including asthma, diabetes or a diagnosis that a child is at risk of anaphylaxis. The nominated supervisor, staff and volunteers of Morgan Primary School and Preschool will be informed of any practices in relations to managing the above conditions.

*(Taken from Clause 90 of the Education and Care Services National Regulation)*

### Implementation:

Upon enrolment, families are required to complete questions regarding their child's health. In particular the following is included:

***Does your child have any known allergies? If yes please provide a completed health profile. More information may be required.***

***Has the child any disabilities or medical conditions? If yes please provide a completed health profile and individual or non-specific health plan from your medical practitioner condition to the centre.***

***Does your child have asthma, epilepsy or diabetes? If yes please provide a completed health profile and individual or non-specific health plan from your medical practitioner condition to the centre.***

The nominated supervisor, staff and volunteers of the service must be aware of any medical conditions of any child enrolled at the preschool. They must also be aware of the medical management plan that will need to be followed relating to the child's specific health care need, allergy or relevant medical condition. Upon enrolment parents will be provided with the relevant medical condition action plans and these are to be filled out by a health practitioner prior to the child commencing at the centre.

A Health Support Plan will be completed with the family to support risk minimisation. We will ensure that at all times of operation that at least one member of the staff team has recognised asthma, anaphylaxis and first aid training. A medical condition plan may include the following: a modified diet care plan, asthma care plan, medical information, a medical management plan or individual first aid plan. A medical management plan will identify the child's medical condition, a description of the condition and first aid to administer if the condition occurs at the Preschool. Practices and procedures to ensure parents are notified of any known allergens that pose a risk to a child and strategies for minimising the risk (if relevant)

Parents will be informed that the child needs to attend the service with the correct and in date medication prescribed by the child's practitioner in relation to the child's specific health care need, and will be accompanied by the medication management plan. All staff and volunteers of the centre will be shown the medical management plans for all children who have a specific health care needs. The folder will also contain the centre's Medication Plan. Staff, students and volunteers will be informed of these folders and their locations.

All medication, allergy and medical conditions need to be reviewed on an annual basis by a medical practitioner. This service currently does not permit the self-administration of medication by children.

## Outdoor Education – “The Gully”

Nature is an essential element that promotes children's health and wellbeing. Children are able to immerse themselves in having fun and being messy and the freedom to pursue their own ideas and play directions. Nature play promotes and extends children's learning dispositions as they work with open ended materials. The natural world provides limitless play possibilities and all the sensory experiences young children need as they explore, wonder and discover.

Morgan Primary School and Preschool provides creative play spaces and natural materials that generate curiosity, a sense of wonder and spark children's imaginations.

