One Tree Hill Preschool
McGilp Road, One Tree Hill  5114
Ph (08) 8280 7027
Fax (08) 8280 7520
Email: dl.0322_info@schools.sa.edu.au
Web: www.othc7.sa.edu.au
Welcome to One Tree Hill Preschool

One Tree Hill Preschool is co-located with One Tree Hill Primary School. The preschool is a busy, vibrant place where children can play and learn within a safe environment; a place where children explore activities tailored to their age and stage of development. It is a space where individuality, friendship, fun, curiosity, learning, creativity and caring are promoted and valued.

Our preschool values opportunities for children, staff and families to work together fostering the development of confidence and the building of relationships while facilitating a wide variety of meaningful experiences that will contribute to the development of the whole child. At preschool there is a strong focus on the development of early social skills, emotional resilience, emergent literacy and numeracy as well as laying the foundations that are vital to long term learning success.

The Preschool is staffed by:

Director/Principal: Sharyn Roberts
Teachers: Kristen Purvis & Patricia Ramsay
School Services Officers: Karen Galway & Louise Merigot
Play Based Curriculum

Play is children’s work. Children learn through their natural curiosity and experimentation within the world they live in.

Preschool staff continually observe and record information about children’s interests, skills and knowledge development as they ‘learn to learn’. This enables us to provide activities and opportunities to effectively meet the developmental needs of your child at any point in time.

The preschool curriculum is designed in line with the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia “Belonging, Being and Becoming” (EYLF).

The EYLF is constructed around 5 important outcomes and these are:

- Children have a 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

The EYLF is underpinned by the following principles:

- Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships
- Partnerships with families
- High expectations and equity
- Respect for diversity
- Ongoing learning and reflective practice
Staff promote children’s learning by:

- Being responsive to children
- Adopting holistic approaches
- Planning and facilitating learning through play.
- Intentional teaching, creating physical and social learning environments that have a positive impact on children’s learning
- Valuing the cultural and social contexts of children and their families
- Providing for continuity in experiences and enabling children to have successful transition
- Analysing and monitoring children’s learning to inform planning and to support children in achieving learning outcomes

**Reporting**

Information about your child’s development is gathered throughout their time at preschool usually in the form of ‘learning stories’. The ‘learning story’ describes what occurred, the child’s engagement and involvement in the event or task as well as a reflective analysis of the learning that has taken place.

The ‘learning stories’ are placed in a ‘kindy book’ and are a celebration of your child’s journey during their time at preschool. This book will be presented to your child upon their graduation. A written report accompanies the kindy book.

Informal chats with families about their child’s learning are on-going and encouraged.

**Promoting Positive Behaviours**

Young children are learning to manage and understand their world and their feelings. At our Preschool we aim to provide a safe and caring environment that builds respect for self, others and the environment.

From time to time issues will arise as children learn to deal with conflict, disappointment and frustration. We support and encourage the children involved to acknowledge feelings and to investigate other possible solutions. This process allows children to develop lifelong problem solving skills and capabilities.
Same First Day - Starting Preschool and School

Preschool is an important early step on your child's journey through education, giving them the chance to play, learn, grow and develop as part of an organised educational program.

There is a change to the way children start preschool and school. From 2014, there will be only one start date for preschool and school children. This will be the first day of Term 1.

If your child turns four before May 1, they will start preschool at the beginning of Term 1 in that year. If your child turns four on or after May 1, they will start preschool Term 1 of the following year.

If your child turns five before May 1, they will start school on the first day of Term One in that year. If your child turns five on or after May 1, they will start school on the first day of Term One the following year.

The start date will mean that all children will have four terms of preschool and four terms of Reception.

Although it isn’t essential to complete an enrolment form earlier than 12 months prior to commencing preschool, to assist us in ensuring that we have adequate staffing, please advise us of your interest as early as your child’s second birthday.
**What to Bring to an Enrolment Conversation/Interview**

- Contact detail for parents/guardians and emergency contacts
- The child’s ‘Blue Book’ – My health record, if available
- Birth Certificate
- Proof of Address
- Any court orders or parenting plans
- Any information about the child’s health or additional needs

**Early Entry**

Early entry MAY be available for children with additional needs e.g. speech, physical, gifted but must come with documentation such as a letter from a speech pathologist or CYHS. Early entry is for one term before the eligible transition term and is for one session a week. The following term, their transition term, the child may be invited to attend for 2 sessions.

Children who are new arrivals and children of Aboriginal culture may be eligible to start at 3 years.

**Special Needs**

Children with specific learning difficulties or disabilities are able to access the consultative support of DECD Speech, Psychology, Social Work and Hearing Impairment services.

All children with a health care need e.g. asthma, diabetes, anaphylaxis, eczema require a health care plan outlining the procedures that will be undertaken in an emergency before staff are able to assist.

Please see Sharyn to make an appointment to discuss your child’s needs.

**Child and Youth Health Services**

Child and Youth Health Services, CAYHS, visit the Centre approximately twice per year to screen the 4 ½ -5 year olds before beginning school. They assess development, eyesight and hearing. You will be invited to book an appointment with the nurse.

**Parental / Caregivers Participation**

You are encouraged to be actively involved in your child’s learning journey. There are many opportunities for involvement within the program including: sharing stories, preparing materials, attending excursions, sharing your culture or skills.
Session Times

Children are able to access up to fifteen hours of preschool per week. You will be offered a pattern of attendance that will usually include five full days a fortnight. Monday, Wednesday and every second Friday or Tuesday, Thursday and every second Friday.

Full day sessions are from 9:00am – 3:00pm

What to Bring to Preschool

Your child will also need a drink of water, which they keep in a drink tray and can access at any time. A small healthy snack is also required and children will need to bring their lunch.

Lollies and chocolate are not allowed at preschool, please save these for occasional treats at home.

Please dress your child in kindy friendly clothes, we can get messy! Remember that it is important for children’s growing independence that they are able to manage “doing up and undoing” their own clothes.

Children must have their shoulders covered at all times when outside, therefore shoe string straps and tank tops should not to be worn to preschool. As children do lots of climbing walking and running, they need to wear appropriate shoes. Slip on shoes, rubber boots and dress up shoes are unsafe and not suitable.

Sun safe hats must be worn outdoors except for the months May – August. Hats, include legionnaires, bucket and slouch style which are available from the Front Office as well as beanies for the cooler months.

You will also need to provide a library bag to protect books borrowed from the Resource Centre.
Transition

Extensive integration enables our children to become familiar with the school, teachers and other school staff, and contributes enormously to making the transition to school smooth, happy and successful.

Our children are fortunate to have weekly opportunities to work with many groups of students within the school and these activities form a large part of our transition program. They include:

- A regular shared afternoon of song, dance and activities with the Junior Primary classes
- A weekly “Big Friends” programme, where Primary School students read with our children and support them in developing basic skills
- Participation in most whole school activities
- Computer Suite visits
- Formal visits to their intended One Tree Hill classroom prior to starting school
- Play in the school yard and on the playground

Beginning School

The Preschool is an integral part of the school. Learning is continuous and information pertaining to your child’s development and achievements is seamless from Preschool – Year 7.

This integration allows us to foster a strong sense of community in the following ways:

- Regular visits to the Resource Centre to borrow books
- Visits to the Computer Suite
- Fitness and skill development in the Hall
- Access to our Interactive White Board
- Involvement in Governing Council, Class Parent group and fundraising
- Participation in Environmental activities