Welcome to West Beach Kindergarten

Around 60 children enjoy a wide range of play activities and experiences each week at West Beach Kindergarten.

Kindergarten is an important early step in your child’s journey through education, giving them the chance to play, learn, grow and develop.

We look forward to working with our families to help create a rewarding learning Environment and you are welcome to spend time at the Kindy to support this.

13 Winston Crescent, West Beach SA 5024
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www.westbchkgn.sa.edu.au
Our staff
Co-Directors
Rosa Pryor (Group B)
Diploma of Teaching Early Childhood Education
Bronwyn Ruciak (Group A)
Bachelor of Early Childhood Education

Teacher
Rhondda Smith (Group A and B)
Bachelor of Early Childhood Education & Diploma of Teaching Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Worker (ECW)
Amanda Pretty (Group A and B)
Ines Samic (Group A and B)

Enrolling at kindergarten
Children can start kindergarten at the start of term one in the year they turn four, as long as their birthday is before 1 May. If their birthday is after that date, they can attend the following year.

Our enrolment and orientation policy is on our website or in the policy folder.

Session times
Group A - Monday and Wednesday 8:30am - 4:00pm
Group B - Tuesday and Thursday 8:30am - 4:00pm
Parents are asked to stay with their child until 8:30am as staff are setting up before that time.

Kindergarten fees
Your fees are used to cover the cost of running the kindergarten, including cleaning, utilities and purchasing equipment.
Fees are $140 per term. A 25% fee reduction is available for families with a Health Care Card. Please ensure fees are paid by the end of week three.

Cash payments: place fees in an envelope with your child’s name and amount in the fees box on the wall in the main room.

Bank transfer: BSB 633 000 Account Number: 130313232 Include your child’s name in the details section.

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Information pockets/Skoolbag App
Each family has a pocket on the back of the name board. Please check daily. Our main form of communication is through our own Skoolbag IPhone and Android App where we upload all newsletters, notices, excursions and alerts.
To install our Skoolbag App just search for our West Beach Kindergarten name in either the Apple App Store, Windows Phone and Windows Store or Google Play Store. For Windows Phone and Windows Store search for Skoolbag install the app and then Preschool. Please note it must be a Windows8.1 device. If you are unable to access the app please notify staff and we can give you a paper copy of newsletters etc. Copies will also be on our Parent Notice board entrance door as well as our newsletter folder. You can also view our newsletters online on our website www.westbchkgn.sa.edu.au

Take home literacy packs
These packs can be found next to the Parent Information Corner. To borrow, please record the name of your child and the number on the pack being borrowed.

What to wear to kindergarten
Children will learn, explore and create at kindy, let them wear clothes they can get dirty and climb in. Avoid long dresses, thongs, and slip on shoes. Short-sleeved tops are ideal

Don’t forget to name all items.

What to bring to kindergarten
• A bag named on the inside
• A packed lunch and a separate healthy snack such as fresh fruit, cheese, crackers, carrot, celery
• No chips, roll ups, cakes, lollies, biscuits or cordial
• A small water bottle
• Yogurt is discouraged as it is often dropped/spilled
• A hat

Don’t forget to name all items

Fruit and vegetables for afternoon snack are supplied by Foodland Supermarket, West Beach.

Our Healthy Eating policy is on our website or in the policy folder.

When you arrive
Encourage your child to
• put their bag on a hook on the locker trolley
• place their drink bottle and lunch in the trolleys, and their snack in the box
• put their photo on the board

You will need to
• sign next to your child’s name on the sign on sheet
• write in the diary if your child is to be collected by someone else
• Spend some time at an activity with your child.

Speak with a staff member for help if your child is reluctant to let you go.

At home time
The doors will open at 3:45pm and a staff member will individually farewell your child. Don’t forget to help your child collect their bag, artwork and clothing.
Toys from home
Please leave toys and super hero clothes at home so they don’t get broken or lost and cause conflict amongst children.

Sun safe policy
Don’t forget to pack a hat for your child as they will need to wear it for outdoor play when the UV rating is 3 and above. Sunscreen will be applied after lunch if needed for afternoon play. Sun Safe West Beach Kindergarten t-shirts are available for purchase $14 please see Amanda to order. Our sun protection policy is on our website or in the policy folder.

Health & medical information
We regularly talk with children about being healthy. This includes washing hands after visiting the toilet, before eating, blowing noses, putting tissues in the bin and eating healthy foods.

Health
It is important that children attend kindergarten regularly, however if your child is ill, please do not send them. We will contact you if your child becomes unwell and ask that you collect your child.

Infectious diseases
Please notify staff if your child contracts an infectious disease. Speak with your doctor about when your child may return.

Medical
All kindergarten staff have basic first aid training and minor injuries will be treated by staff. We will contact you in the case of other injuries for follow up with your own doctor. In an emergency we will call an ambulance and contact you. If we are unable to reach you we will call the people listed as emergency contacts on your child’s enrolment form. Always update medical information concerning your child, and ensure mobile phone numbers are accurate. Our health and first aid policy is on our website or in the policy folder.

Excursions
We usually have a special event or excursion once a term and a small fee may be requested to cover costs. Parents are often able to come with us to assist with supervision.

Lost property
We have a lost property box located in the blue shelves on the veranda.

Parent involvement
Parents are encouraged to spend time at kindergarten, helping with the learning program or with the running of the centre. You may wish to:
- Spend a short time reading a story
- Share skills such as playing an instrument, a simple craft activity, cooking, gardening etc
- Help staff at the end of the session
- Attend Governing Council meetings
- Attend community events

Governing council
The Governing Council is a group of parents who work with staff to ensure the smooth running of the centre. Members are elected at the Annual General Meeting and meet two evenings a term for about 1.5 hours. At the meetings, the council discuss the needs of the centre, possible events, curriculum directions and community needs. Being on the council is an excellent way to better understand how the kindergarten is managed and to get to know other parents.

All parents and caregivers are welcome at council meetings.

West Beach Playgroup
Children aged 0-5 years are welcome to attend playgroup on a Friday between 9:30am – 11:30am (except for the last Friday of term). Children need to bring a hat and a piece of fruit for snack time. The playgroup is run by parents and independent from the kindergarten. Speak to us for contact details.

Curriculum information
Our role is to support children’s learning by providing a range of activities that interest, stimulate and extend them in their learning. We program against the Early Years Learning Framework. Look at our board for more information.

We believe
- That children learn through play.
- What children can do and what they already know should be the starting point in their learning.
- Children develop at different rates and in different ways.
- Children are individuals and each has their own strengths.
- That children who feel positive about themselves have a head start to learning.
We aim to assist children to:

- Develop skills in a range of learning areas.
- Develop a positive self-concept.
- Develop the confidence to cope with new situations and experiences.
- Experience success and enjoy their new learning.
- Respect and value differences in each other.

Assessing & reporting children’s learning

We are trained observers of young children, and keep curriculum, learning stories and written observations of each child. These are important for reflecting on children’s learning and progress and are used as a basis for planning and reporting to parents. – 

We will regularly talk with you about your child’s progress both informally and at an interview during term two. You will also be given a written report on your child’s progress prior to starting school.

If we have any concerns about your child’s learning or development, we will speak with you. You are encouraged to speak with us about any concerns or issues.

If you need more than a few minutes we will make an appointment at a convenient time.

Some children may need extra support through the Preschool Support program. We have access to a number of services such as speech pathologists, special educators and educational psychologists through the Department for Education and Child Development.