

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 17/11/11

McRitchie Crescent Children's Services Centre

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Region - Eyre and Western



Pre-school Director

:Elizabeth Jones

Teachers

: Moira McGrath & Tracey French

ECWs

: Tamy Pond, Ali Mayne, Anne Castle,
Hayley Walden, Lyn Pedler
& Jodie Summerton

1. General Information

Geographical location :394kms from Adelaide

National Quality Framework

:we now offer 15 hours in a combination of sessions covering 4½ days.

:the new NQF standards are being implemented and our rating may be found on the federal Govt.

"My Child" website.

One intake policy

:In 2013 all Kindergarten's will operate under a once a year intake. This means that if your child's birthday is before May 1st in any given year they will start in January of that year and if your child's birthday is after May 3rd then they will start the following year.

Enrolment Process :Due to the new one in take policy the enrolment of children will become more formalised. This means that parents will be invited to an interview to finalise the enrolment of their child and to sign all the required paperwork. The Centre will also need to see the child's birth certificate before accepting the formal enrolment.

An enrolment application and a book of the Centre's relevant parent policies may be collected at any time as well as a quick viewing of the. At the formal meeting with the director a hand book containing other centre information will be given, informed consents forms signed and an offer of a place will be finalised.

Enrolment/Attendance :we have an average of 65 to 70 pre-school children enrolled with all being regular attendees. We have an average of 14 pre-entry children attending.

Programs operating

Pre Entry

:Available until 2013, to all children who have enrolled at the approximate age of 3 years and 9 months. 1 session per week during normal kindy times.

Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children

:Children are able to access 5 sessions, either morning or afternoon or a combination, with children attending from Monday to Friday. We also have Lunch Care for working parents available on request. Lunch care has a small fee. As it is not part of your child's 15 hrs.

Occasional Care

:We have 3 funded sessions operating for children aged between 2 and 4 years. Programed sessions are on Thursday morning or afternoon and Friday afternoon. Sessions are pre booked in the next available free space. Cost is \$5.00 per child or \$2.50 for each additional sibling and concessions are available with appropriate documentation (eg health care cards etc).

Extended Care

:We do not offer extended care at the end of the day.

Early Entry

: Aboriginal and Guardians of the Minister may start at 3 years and children with Additional Needs may start at 3 ½ years on request if space is available.

Lunch Care

:We offer lunch care to children of working parents and children in their last term of Kindy (if space is available). Days are negotiated with the director.

Bilingual Support

:3 children currently require this service.

Pre-school Support

: we have an average of 15 children receiving support through special education.

2. Key Centre Policies

Our Philosophy

Statement of Purpose

Our Vision Is:

To become a learning community where all participants work collaboratively to increase their engagement, learning & development, so that children and families successfully participate with their education and community.

We Value:

Respect, Achievement, Collaboration, Honesty, Learning, Support/Encouragement, Fun

We Exist To:

Plan & deliver a high quality, appropriately balanced programs to develop children's learning, well being, physical, social & emotional growth to prepare them as citizens for, our local schools, community & the future.

Key Relationships:

Staff wellbeing & cohesion, Clients participation, Governing Council involvement, Suppliers communication, & Other Stakeholders involvement

Centre Priorities

Speech & Language

Every child is assessed on their Receptive (understanding), Expressive (spoken) and Articulation (sounds produced). We also assess basic concepts in maths and fine motor ability such as how to hold a pencil and drawing.

Well Being & Social Development

As part of our kindy program all staff implement social skills development, monitor well being and intervene early. Our Site Behaviour Code sets out staff actions as well as positive and negative consequences for children.

3. Curriculum

Framework used: EYLF

:Our staff use the Early Years Learning Framework to program and assess the children.

Specific curriculum approaches

:Play based learning . We value play as the most appropriate curriculum base, the need to create a secure yet flexible environment, our families as the prime educator, diversity of our community, the rights of children and staff working together collaboratively.

Joint programmes/special curriculum projects

:Staff are participating in the SPA (Literacy based assessment) and the use of Reflect Respect Relate document

4. Centre Based Staff

Staff Profile

:PreSchool Director - PSD3-Tenured to 2015, Preschool Teacher - permanent, 2 permanent part time Early Childhood Worker, Occasional Care Co-ordinator -contracted for 1 year, ECW Support Workers - contracted by term as needed.

Performance Management Program

:In line with DECS' Performance Management Policy, staff meet formally with the Director at least once a year to discuss their performance plan. Feedback and assistance is given regularly on an informal basis. Written feedback is given at the PMP meeting and in terms of a performance statement/work report are provided on request

Access for training new staff

:This site has a volunteer training program for ECWs and Support Workers available as well as placements for School Work Ed students, University and TAFE students and Volunteers.

5. Centre Facilities

Buildings and grounds

:Stand alone, purpose built, solid brick building with carpet and lino areas, designated office, kitchen, child and adult toilets. Grounds are a combination of bark chips and large lawn area and are currently being upgraded.

Capacity (per session)

:39 children including 8 occasional care places.

Centre Ownership

:All facilities and land owned by DECS.

Access for children and staff with disabilities

:Easy access for children and adults with disabilities.

6. Local Community

General characteristics: (e.g. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments)

:The major employers in Whyalla are One Steel, contractors used by that company and educational and Government institutions. Mining has recently become another big uptake for employment. There is also a high rate of unemployment. There are many languages spoken in the community e.g. Aboriginal, Spanish, Greek, Italian, Croatian, Philippine etc.

We also have a high intake of South Africans employed at One Steel.

Parent and community involvement in the pre-school

:Our Governing Council is the most important involvement by parent. This group works with the Director 8 twice a term to oversee the Centre and bring the parent views on the educating their children.

:This centre has 4 major parent activities that are very well attended.

:T1 Come Out or Kindy in the Park (a town wide event)

T2 Disco

:T3 Obstacle A thon

:T4 Christmas Concert and Pageant Float

Many other activities and events occur during the year as well .

:Parents are involved in fund raising with the view of raising funds to upgrade the yard and play equipment.

:General parent assistance is greatly appreciated such as laundry, washing up, packing away at the end of the session, preparing resources, gardening and minor repairs.

:Parents are also involoved in cooking and other extra programs run by the centre.

Schools to which children generally transfer from this pre-school

:Children transition to various school all over Whyalla as it is not zoned - so parents have freedom of choice.

Other local care and educational facilities, e.g. child care, schools, OSHC

:There are 5 child-care centres, 1 Early Learning Centre, 6 Kindergartens, 7 Public Primary Schools, 3 of which have OSHC, 3 Private Primary schools, 3 secondary schools, 1 Catholic High School, TAFE, and a campus of University of South Australia.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

:Whyalla has two main shopping sectors (one of which is the biggest in the rural area of SA) with many well known outlets e.g. Woolworths, Coles, Target, Harris Scarfe, Harvey Norman, as well as smaller speciality shops. There are electrical, and furniture retailers, as well as art/craft shops. Whyalla has banking and credit union outlets.

Other local facilities, e.g. medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational

:Whyalla has a large hospital, health and community service. Access to specialist is available as they attend Whyalla regularly.

:Whyalla has a large sporting/recreational centre with an indoor pool and Gym. There are many other sporting clubs ranging from gun to dancing with a huge variety in between.

: There are six hotels and motels, 3 caravan/ cabin parks and various place to hold conferences.

: Whyalla has various parks and garden around the city. Ada Ryan gardens and the Fore shore being the biggest with BBQ shelters, large playground, animals and tennis courts available.

: The Marina has boat access, fishing jetty, fish cleaning and swimming facility provided by the council.

Religious venues

: Whyalla has a large range of religious church and areas to worship.

Availability of staff housing

: Teacher housing is available in city area.

Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality

: Whyalla has flights or bus services to and from Adelaide. There is a sealed main highway, in good condition, to Adelaide taking approximately 4 hours by car. Public transport is available in Whyalla.

Local Government body availability of publications describing the local area, characteristics, level of involvement

: Whyalla City Council (08) 8640 3444. The council has various sub-committees and boards that oversee the development of the city. The local paper "The Whyalla News" publishes a magazine about Whyalla and surrounding area. This is called "The Whyalla Guide" and is free.

The Whyalla Councils web site is www:Whyalla.sa.gov.au