



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 03/2017

Centre number: 4619

Centre name: Torrens valley Children's Centre

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Jayne Cook
- Postal address: P.O.Box 445 Gumeracha SA 5233
- Location address: John Fisher Avenue Gumeracha 5233
- DECD Partnership: Torrens Valley
- Geographical location – 38km north east from Adelaide GPO
- Telephone number: 08 83891335
- Fax number: 088389 1867
- Preschool website address: www.torrensvlycc.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: Jayne.Cook893@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance
 - 2011 Average Attendances: 38 Average Enrolments: 41.5
 - 2012 " " 34 " " 39
 - 2013 " " 26.5 " " 29.5
 - 2014 " " 29 " " 30
 - 2015 " " 22 " " 25

- Co-located/stand-alone: We are a rural integrated children’s centre with DECD preschool and long day care
- Programs operating at the preschool
 - Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
 - Associated Programs: Pre-entry & Playgroup
 - Lunch/Full Day Program – A lunch program is planned for and implemented as part of the curriculum with the 15 hours per week of preschool
 - Preschool Support

2. Key Centre Policies

- Quality Improvement Plan Priorities
 - ✚ Developing powerful learners of numeracy & literacy
 - ✚ Connecting with our community
 - ✚ Supporting a growth mindset
 - ✚ De-institutionalising our learning spaces

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework
- Core Values :
 - A belief that children are competent and capable learners from birth
 - Children learn best through play
 - Positive, reciprocal, respectful relationships with children, families and community are central to wellbeing and learning
- Specific curriculum approaches: Our core business is to provide education and care programs that meet the developmental needs of children in way that compliments care within each family. This is based on the Principles, Practices and Learning Outcomes in the Early Years Learning Framework, knowledge of child development theories and practice, as well as an understanding of the

children and families within our community. Our philosophy and practice of early childhood education and care is strongly influenced by the Reggio Emilia early childhood philosophy.

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects: Community Links program with upper primary students at Gumeracha Primary School

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile:
 - Preschool Director Band A-3 Fulltime – 0.5 teaching/0.5 admin
 - DECD preschool teacher 0.5
 - Assistant Director (Child Care) Fulltime employed by Governing Council
 - 8 Child Care staff including Diploma & Certificate 3 trained – various part time contracts
- Performance Management Program: Staff across the centre engage in developing a performance plan that is reviewed six monthly.
- Access to special support staff: Support in the Kindergarten program is accessed via referral to DECD Support Services. Support for children in the child care program can be accessed via referral to Inclusive Directions.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds: The single building provides separate indoor learning spaces for the Kindergarten program and the Child Care 0-5 year old program. Within the Child Care space there is a withdrawal/sleep room and 2 bedrooms with cots for infants. The building is a transportable structure that was brought down to the Adelaide Hills Council Site (former site of Gumeracha Kindergarten) from Leigh Creek in 1996, when the Children's Centre was established. There are 3 outside learning spaces, two for the child care program – 0-2 years, 2 -.5 years (flexible use) and one for the kindergarten. These spaces have been developed with sustainability and nature play in mind – natural elements and recycled resources are a feature.

- Capacity (per session): We have a centre wide capacity of 66 children per day. This includes up to 10 under two year olds.
- Centre Ownership: This is a DECD rural integrated children's centre. DECD owns the building which is housed on Adelaide Hills Council Land
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: The entry way is is a paved low incline ramp (no steps) There is also ramp access to the kindergarten room from the outside learning space
- Other

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: Majority of Anglo Saxon families, with a wide cross-section of employment...farming, business/services, professionals who commute to the city
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool: Good representation on Governing Council (10 out of 18 preschool families in 2017) Working bees, family nights etc. are well attended by preschool families. We have developed strong connections with businesses/services within our local community – our children belong to a wider community. We are engaged in a Community Links program with Gumeracha Primary school and enjoy strong collaborative relationships with our local schools.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: Over 90% of children transfer to local public schools including Gumeracha, Birdwood, Kersbrook, Lobethal
- Other local care and educational facilities: Open Arms Lutheran Private Child Care centre at Birdwood. Gumeracha, Birdwood, Lobethal & Kersbrook have OSHC services.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: Local community shops in Gumeracha include butcher, chemist, general store and takeaway. . Commercial/Industry is mainly agriculture/livestock with some light industrial such as carpentry and wine-making.
- Other local facilities: There is a post office, medical practice, hospital, police station, council/library and a sporting club in the town
- Availability of staff housing: Private rental is available.
- Accessibility: Adelaide is 38km away. There is a public Link SA bus service that runs 4-5 services each way to Tea Tree Plaza six days per week.
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- Local Government : Adelaide Hills Council

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups