



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 09/16

Centre number: 4617

Centre name: Clarence Park Community Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Rita MacFarlane
- Postal address: 5 Parker Terrace, Clarence Park SA 5034
- DECD Partnership: Greenhill South
- DECD Region: Eastern Adelaide
- Geographical location: Approximately 5 kms from CBD
- Telephone number: (08) 8293 5652
- Fax number: (08) 8371 4958
- Preschool website address: www.clarenpkgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.4617.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance: The service has an assigned physical capacity of 30. The service offers preschool sessions to 44 enrolled children based on the current staffing allocation of one director and one teacher. We are a two staff centre with additional ECW time funded through Universal Access on a needs basis.
- Stand-alone

- Programs operating at the preschool
 - ❖ Sessional kindergarten (up to 15 hours per week) with full day options between 8.45am and 3.15 pm. Mondays through to Thursdays. Families are able to choose their attendance pattern. A daily lunch care cost is an additional part of the parent financial contribution structure.
 - ❖ The service offers (on a limited basis) before and after kindergarten care. There is a fee for this service.
 - ❖ Our service liaises with the City of Unley: Community Centre Child Care service (over the railway line). Children can attend Clarence Park Kindergarten for afternoon sessions after they have been to the morning session of the child care program. A qualified staff member walks the children across to the kindergarten. Parents can talk to staff at the childcare service about this option.
 - ❖ Bilingual Support: Children from a variety of cultures receive Bilingual Support.
 - ❖ Preschool Support: Children with additional needs are supported through Early Childhood Support Services in an integrated program.
 - ❖ Currently no playgroup operates.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Policies
 - A number of DECD required policies have been developed by staff in consultation with the Governing Council. These are for public view in the centre as well as on our website.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: We use the national Early Years Learning Framework: Belonging, Being and Becoming to support our planning and assessment of children's learning.
- Core Values:
 - Sustainable practices at many levels of the program.
 - Children's voice, involvement and agency are highly valued.
 - An ongoing Charter of Rights program.
 - Inclusion and Belonging are emphasised and well established components of the teaching and learning program.
 - A Commitment to successful partnerships and relationships with families, careproviders and the community.

- Specific curriculum approaches:

Reggio Emilia inspired practice at Clarence Park Community Kindergarten.

The Reggio Emilia is an inspiring approach to Early Childhood Programs originating in Italy. The approach views each child as strong, capable and competent. At our service we have worked to incorporate many of the Reggio principles. For several years now our learning spaces have progressively been changed and developed as we have recognised 'the environment as the third teacher' while incorporating children's voice. The mud kitchen and other less permanent child initiated projects as well as children's involvement in the care and maintenance of our garden shows how children have been invited to influence their play spaces and have real agency. The garden spaces will continue to be used and developed by children. Our floorbooks provide daily documentation by the children themselves. The books reveal the purpose and power of a high level of involvement and agency.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile: The centre is staffed by a full time Director and a full time teacher. Additional staff is currently funded through Universal Access funding, preschool support allocations and DECD Bilingual programs.
- Performance Management Program: All staff engage in regular performance development processes as per DECD policy.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds: The centre is an older purpose built kindergarten of brick construction. The building faces on to Parker Terrece. The main and extensive outdoor area is an outdoor learning space. The front has a bike track with bike days being a regular feature of the children's week. A visit to google maps provides a great view of our layout.
- The site has two children's toilets and an adult toilet.
- Capacity (per session): Centre capacity is set at 30 children per session as per DECD regulations.
- Centre Ownership: The centre is owned by DECD.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: Ramps and double doors offer a reasonable level of access. The adult toilet is a standard non access toilet.

Accommodations can be made on a needs basis at the service. These are funded by DECD where approvals are given.

- A large covered area to the rear of the building offers a protected learning space in all seasons.

6. Further Comments

- We are located in the City of Unley LGA. Children attend a number of local primary schools including; Black Forest Primary School, Edwardstown primary School, Goodwood primary, Westbourne Park Primary School and St. Thomas' Primary School