



Kensington Gardens Preschool

A community of connected and lifelong learners



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Website: www.kensingtonpre.sa.edu.au

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: April 2019

Centre number: 4627

Centre name: Kensington Gardens Preschool

1. General information

Preschool Director

Catherine Honeychurch

Postal address

- 430 The Parade, Kensington Gardens SA 5068

Location address

- As above

DECD Local Partnership

- Central East Partnership

Geographical location – i.e. road distance from GPO (km)

- 6 km from GPO

Telephone number

- 08 8331 8068

Preschool website address:

- www.kensingtonpre.sa.edu.au

Preschool e-mail address

dl.4627.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

Enrolment/Attendance

- Our kindergarten's capacity is 33 children in each session. Children's attendance at this site is excellent and we usually fill each year to our capacity.

Co-located/stand-alone

- Standalone preschool

Programs operating at the preschool

Sessional Kindergarten

- 2 full day sessions per week for four terms. This equates to 15 hours of preschool a week/ 600 hours over four terms. The preschool session starts at 8.15am and ends at 3.45pm. This program operates on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

Pre entry/Playgroup

Our Friday Playgroup is for children under preschool entry age. Children who are to attend preschool are strongly encouraged to attend the preentry-playgroup sessions at least one term prior to their start at preschool. An educator supports the playgroup and contributes significantly through group times and interacting with families and children.

Extended Care

- In case of emergencies

Bilingual Support and Preschool Support

- Is provided by the Department for Education and Children's Services for eligible children.

2. Key Centre Policies

Philosophy Statement

Kensington Gardens Preschool is situated in the Kensington Gardens Reserve. We acknowledge and learn what it means to meet on the traditional lands of the Kurna people and work together to look after the environment. Our families come from diverse backgrounds and most of our children attend other local early childhood services and informal care arrangements such as with grandparents. The grounds are well kept and shady and we connect with our beautiful park for Nature Kindy and other learning opportunities. On Fridays we run a well-attended community based playgroup. KGP does not have one main feeder school but feeds to more than 6 different schools both public and private.

Kensington Gardens Preschool offers children a safe, friendly and compelling environment in which to play and learn. Children actively engage in authentic, hands-on play experiences and our beautiful outdoor environment and surrounds allow children to connect with and learn from nature on a daily basis. Our environment is set up intentionally so that children can be in charge of their own learning – independent, self-reliant and encouraged to explore and investigate. Equal use is made of the indoor and outdoor environment. In 2019 the children's vision of the Kindy is of being in a place with lots of access to outdoor play, plants, nature, chickens and friendships. The children have named gardening, moving, climbing, swinging, role playing, constructing and exploring as well as learning with the Kurna People and their connection to the land as part of their learning journey at Kindergarten in 2019.

Our philosophy is based on the view of the child as a competent and capable learner who comes to us with a wealth of knowledge, experiences and ideas, ready to achieve and continue with their learning. We acknowledge the family as the child's first educator and actively develop respectful and open two-way relationships. We respect and value the diversity and uniqueness of our families and seek their participation and input in our program. In 2019 families have made strong connections with our embedded practices and pedagogies around Nature Play, immersion in the park, and learning through play. Our connections with the wider community and with the natural world give children the opportunity to create new understandings and develop their sense of belonging and citizenship.

Our program is based on our group of learners and our context and community. Our long term investigations build children's self-belief about their own identity as a learner, able to overcome challenges, ask questions, work with others and find solutions to any problems. We value and seek the child's voice in project topics, the learning environment and the experiences we offer.

Children have daily access to clay, paint, drawing materials, woodwork and collage. The arts are celebrated

including dramatic play and drama, music and dance which are seen as vital ways of learning and expressing oneself. Oral language is supported and developed through opportunities to express ideas and theories. Opportunities to explore and learn from nature and build physical competence are promoted. Sustainability in everything we do is integral to our practices as we view ourselves as a community of learners. We support the participation of all the kindergarten community in becoming confident life-long learners in the 21st Century. **Documentation and reflection** of children's learning is evaluated every week and guides opportunities and possibilities for future experiences and intentional teaching. We seek parent's input into the program. Weekly planning sessions incorporate individual children's learning and we note their strengths, and plan for their future progress. The visible learning improvement cycle, Learning Stories and photographic stories are a large part of our documentation and evidence of ongoing assessment *for* learning.

Reviewed April 2019

Site Priorities

To connect with the wider world by giving children the opportunity to create new understandings, develop a sense of belonging and take their place in it. We do this through our explorations of learning with children. We also focus on:

Literacy

To achieve quality learning outcomes for all children in the areas of:

- Oral language
- Emergent Literacy
- Phonological awareness

The following Preschool Literacy indicators guide our curriculum:

- »» I use language to connect with my world
- »» I understand the language of my world
- »» I engage with texts and make meaning
- »» I represent my world symbolically.

Numeracy

To achieve quality Learning outcomes for all children in the area of Numeracy with experiences provided to encourage skills and processes such as noticing, sorting, patterning, wondering, communicating, reasoning, generalising, visualising and comparing.

The following Preschool Numeracy indicators guide our curriculum:

- »» I explore and understand my place and space in the world
- »» I measure and compare my world
- »» I analyse and read my word mathematically
- »» I quantify my world.

3. Curriculum

The curriculum is based on the *Early Years Learning Framework and the preschool is influenced by the Reggio Emilia Approach and The Project Approach.*

The curriculum is based on the following learning outcomes from EYLF

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are effective communicators
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners

4. Centre Based Staff~ Staff Profile

Director: Catherine Honeychurch

Teachers: Libby Kranz and Olympia Gerovasilis

Early Childhood Workers: Linda Simmons and Mahnoor Ahmad

Performance Development program

Performance Development strategies strive to develop harmony in working relationships and improvement in personal understandings. This is seen as essential in providing a quality service for children and families and enriches individual staff commitment and professional knowledge and skill.

Personal development meetings are held throughout the year and the staff team engages in regular reflection during weekly staff meetings. We are a family friendly workplace.

Access to special support staff

When a child with an identified learning need enrolls we work closely with families to access extra staff to support children's full engagement in the program.

5. Centre Facilities

Buildings and grounds

- Kensington Gardens Preschool is set in the Kensington Reserve on the Parade and is known as "the kindy in the park". The Preschool is close to many public and private schools to which the preschool children will transition.
- The kindergarten is leased from the Burnside Council. It is situated in Kensington Park in the eastern foothills, amongst large gum trees and other deciduous trees.

Capacity (per session)

Our site capacity is 30- 33 children per session.

Centre Ownership

- Burnside Council owned. Site managed by the Department of Education

Access for children and staff with disabilities

- Children and staff have access to a wheelchair friendly toilet. Mostly flat ground accessible from road. Some areas within the preschool outdoor area will mean some difficulty for children and staff in wheelchairs.

6. Local Community

General characteristics:

- Located in Burnside Council
- Many local businesses in the nearby Norwood and Magill area

Parent and community involvement in the preschool

- Families are encouraged to attend special interest weeks, termly family nights, family lunches, governing council meetings, attendance on excursions, attendance and participation during session times.

Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool

- Children attend Magill, Burnside and Marryatville Primary Schools as well as primary schools further afield. Other children attend St Joseph's School, Tranmere and a smaller percentage to various Private schools in the local vicinity.

Other local care and educational facilities

Most schools provide Out of School Hours Care. Many local private schools operate Early Learning Centres.

Local Child care Centres- Community Based and Private

- Adelaide Eastern **Community** Childcare Centre-Rose Park
- Burnside Childcare Centre-Burnside
- Campbelltown **Community** Children's Centre-Newton
- City **Community** Childcare Centre-Adelaide
- City West **Community** Childcare Centre-Adelaide
- Conyngham Street **Community** Childcare Centre-Glenside
- Halifax **Community** Children's Centre-Adelaide
- Il Nido Paradise **Community** Childcare Centre-Paradise
- Linden Pa
- Linden Park Childcare Centre-Linden Park
- Magill Campus **Community** Childcare Centre-Magill
- Margaret Ives **Community** Children's Centre-Norwood
- St Peters **Community** Childcare Centre-Stepney
- St Morris **Community** Childcare Centre-St Morris
- Precious Cargo-St Peters
- ABC Learning Centre-Magill
- ABC Learning Centre-Campbelltown
- Paradise Early Learning Centre-Paradise
- Victoria Park Childcare Centre-Rose Park

Family Day care

Contact the DECD

5-11 Briar Road

Felixstow-Phone:83668

Other local facilities

- Medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational facilities are available in this area.

Availability of staff housing

- Area is popular as a rental area, in particular with Magill Campus of UniSA close by.

Accessibility

- A bus ride of 15-20 minutes from the city will take you to the preschool.

Local Government

- Burnside Council

7. Further Comments

Partnership arrangements with other groups

- We are part of the Central East Partnership that includes local preschools, primary schools and high schools

