Eudunda Community Preschool Centre

Preschool Context Statement
PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 2653
Centre name: Eudunda Community Preschool

1. General information

- Preschool Director
  Mrs Sandra Keith

- Postal address
  PO Box 171
  Eudunda,
  SA 5374

- Location address
  Morgan Road
  Eudunda
  SA 5374

- DECS Region
  Yorke Mid North, Region 12

- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
  100km

- Telephone number
  (08) 85811717

- Fax number
  (08) 85811543

- Preschool e-mail address
  sandy.director955@schools.sa.edu.au

- Co-located/stand-alone
  Stand-alone Preschool Centre, liaise closely with Eudunda Area School
• Programs operating at the preschool
   Pre Entry
  Eligible children are offered Pre Entry sessions in the term prior to ‘Full Time’ entry, for 2.5 hrs per week for nine weeks.

   Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
  Eligible children are accepted for ‘Full Time’ entry, ten sessions per fortnight, (two sessions per day on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.00am to 3.00pm, plus two sessions each alternate Wednesday) from the beginning of their eligible year. (Same First Day criteria applies please see DECD website for details)

   Occasional Care
  Two sessions of funded Occasional Care are run concurrently each Friday morning from 9.00am to 12 noon, for over 2 year olds.

   Extended Care
  Bus children receive extended care after preschool, care is provided by Centre staff.

   Lunch/Full Day Program
  Preschool sessions are run on full days incorporating lunchtime care, run by staff.

   Preschool Support
  All children undergo a speech and language assessment in their first term of preschool and based on results, preschool support funding may be sought. Screens for other areas of need identify where support is required also, children with diagnosed needs are referred for support funding.
  The Early Intervention Grant helps staff provide specific teaching to children needing 1:1 support or to small groups.
  Preschool Support is provided by the Yorke & Mid North Early Childhood Support Services. Assessments and support are also provided as required by Barossa Health and the Barossa Early Intervention Team.

2. Key Centre Policies

• Centre Priorities
  The Centre’s priorities are outlined in the Eudunda Coomnuity Preschool Site Improvement Strategy. They include: Increasing Quality Teaching through Staff Development & Training, Improving Children’s Wellbeing and Improve Children’s Literacy Achievement through Oral Language Development.
• Statement of Purpose

Our centre aims to provide life-skills by providing a safe, fun, caring and stimulating environment, in partnership with families

We believe that families are central to a child's early learning. We will continue to strengthen our partnerships with families and within the community. We will model attitudes, dispositions, values and interpersonal skills we want our children to practice and learn. We believe that improvements in teaching practice and learning outcomes are facilitated when staff:

• Work and plan together
• Have a focus on children's learning and effective practice
• Develop knowledge, skills and understanding about quality practice.
• Have a sense of wellbeing through mutual support

3. Curriculum

• Framework used:
The National Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

Teaching and learning programs and assessment practices are aligned to the new framework. The framework forms the foundation for ensuring that children in all early childhood education and care settings experience quality teaching and learning. It has specific emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development.

The Centre’s inclusive curriculum takes into account gender, cultural and socioeconomic background, and special needs. Our program aims to encompass all families, valuing their experiences, cultural beliefs, skills, knowledge and circumstances.

• Core Values
To provide a high quality education service, which is welcoming, caring, safe, stimulating and interactive, which meets the needs of children, families and the community and provides opportunities for learning through play.

• Specific curriculum approaches
Focussed early identification and intervention for special needs.
‘Busy Bee Screenings’ conducted by Barossa Community Health Early Intervention Team.

Four year old health checks conducted on site by CAYH nurse.

Wellbeing policies emphasise focus on physical and emotional wellbeing.
Joint programmes/special curriculum projects

The Centre is a pilot site for the Kidsmatter Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative.
Transition programs exist between the Centre and both feeder schools.

4. **Centre Based Staff**

- **Staff Profile**
  
  - Director, PSD1 (0.6) plus (0.1) for Funded Occasional Care- Sandy Keith
  - Teacher, (0.6) – Cathy Burkert
  - Preschool Support Worker/ ECW1, (hours depend on support received for identified children each term) – Julie Schulz
  - Occasional Care ECW2, (4.5hrs per week) – Julie Schulz
  - Occasional Care ECW1, (3.5 hrs per week) – Sheralee Waldhuter
  - Finance Officer, (3hrs per week) – Renae Sauer

- **Performance Management Program**
  
  A performance management programme contains informal and formal processes, which continue a cycle of improvement and assessment of the staff team, identifying performance goals, developing plans to achieve these goals and reviewing performances against indicators of success.

- **Access to special support staff**
  
  We have access to specialised staff through the Regional Offices; children are assessed with parental permission for access to these services.
  
  DECS’ Yorke & Mid North Support Staff are based at Port Pirie, Kadina and Clare. Specialised staff who support sites include the Disability Coordinators, Speech Pathologists, Psychologists, Hearing Impairment Coordinator, Social Worker, Interagency Behaviour Support Coordinator and Aboriginal Community Education Manager.
  
  Access is also available to support from Barossa Health, providing Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Speech pathologists.

- **Other**
  
  The Director is expected to participate in and contribute to the Regional Leadership Group.

5. **Centre Facilities**

- **Buildings and grounds**
  
  The Preschool Centre was officially opened in February 1994. The original prefabricated transportable building has been extended to include additional office space, children’s toilets and a wet area. Additional improvements
include verandas and a back porch. The building is well maintained with two large storage sheds and a tool shed as well as shaded permanent outdoor play equipment, cubby, decking and rotunda. The play area consists of a lawned area, sandpit, and bike track with permanent outdoor play equipment and softfall.

- Capacity (per session)
  25 – 30 children

- Centre Ownership
  DECS building and improvements on Council land

- Access for children and staff with disabilities
  There is an access ramp and disabled toilet.

- Other
  Access to bus facilities: Staff take children to access buses at the Eudunda Area School at the end of each Preschool day, weather permitting.

6. Local Community General:

Eudunda has a population of approximately 1370 (within a radius of 30 Kilometres). The learners come from a range of geographical situations – rural, isolated and urban. There is a diversity of family structures, including two parent and single parent families. The centre caters for children from an extended rural area and with diverse range of backgrounds with some families requiring access to school bus facilities. There is a variety of socio-economic situations and family occupations from farming to small business. We have noticed an increase in enrolments from outlying areas, ie Saddleworth and Kapunda who access our centre as they have enrolled their children at St John’s. We have strong ties with both Eudunda Area School and St John’s Lutheran Primary School.

The Preschool is situated adjacent to the swimming pool and oval, and is only a short walk away from Eudunda Area School. Parent and community involvement in the preschool

  Parental involvement includes contribution to fundraising, periodic cleaning and working bees, membership of Governing Council etc.

  Parents support regular attendance and participate in and support special programs within the centre.

  Parents, grandparents and extended families attend end of term celebrations, special occasions eg Mother’s Day Morning Tea, graduation and award ceremonies, fundraising events etc

  The preschool has close links with community groups, businesses and organisations, who actively support the centre through participation in specific
programs, eg Community Readers Program, through assisting with fundraising and through mutual events eg Remembrance Day Ceremony.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:
  Eudunda Area School and St John’s Lutheran School

- Other local care and educational facilities,

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:
  7 day supermarket, bank, post office, bakery, butcher, hairdresser, newsagent, roadhouse, haberdashery store, chemist, hardware store, clothing and gift store, engineering company, transport company.

- Other local facilities:
  Police station, medical centre, hospital, hotels, swimming pool, various sporting facilities and clubs, CFS, ambulance station, garage/tyre centre, rural agencies, real estate agency, churches

- Availability of staff housing
  Limited availability of private rentals.

- Accessibility
  100km from G.P.O.
  No public transport.

- Local Government
  Regional Council of Goyder, 1 Market Square, Burra.

7. **Further Comments**

- Partnership arrangements with other groups
  Playgroup is held at the Centre on Monday mornings and Child and Youth Health sister uses the Centre as a base.
  Centre is responsible to the Minister through the Yorke Mid North Regional Director