PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 5618
Centre name: Torrensville Preschool Centre

1. General information
   • Preschool Director: Claire Evans
     - Postal address:
       93A Ashley Street, Torrensville 5031
     - Location address:
       93A Ashley Street, Torrensville 5031
     - DECD Partnership: West Torrens Partnership
     - Situated 5.4km west of GPO, close to Henley Beach Road
     - Telephone number: 84437492
     - Fax number: 83519745
     - Preschool website address: www.torrensvillepre.sa.edu.au
     - Preschool e-mail address: dl.5618.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

   Enrolment/Attendance
   • During 2016 enrolments have fluctuated, however they have remained in between 50-54
   • Stand-alone preschool co-located with Torrensville Primary School
• **Programs operating at the preschool**

  • Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children:
    - Monday – Thursday 9:00a.m. – 3:00 p.m. All eligible children are offered 5 days of preschool per fortnight. Children attend 3 days one week and 2 days the next, giving them 30 hours per fortnight

  • Funded Occasional Care for over 2 year olds – Wednesday and Thursday morning (9 – 11.45) and afternoon (12.15 – 3pm), and Friday morning
  
  • Funded Occasional Care for under 2 year olds – Friday morning (9am – 11.45)

  • Extended Care 8.30 drop of by arrangement with the Director. There is a charge for this additional service.

  • Lunch/Full Day Program: children attend 5 full days per fortnight (9am – 3pm), which is inclusive of lunch

• Bilingual Support: Available according to need

• Preschool Support: We currently have 1:1 preschool support for children with special needs, such as speech and language delays. The amount of support is determined by each child's individual needs, in close consultation with DECD disability coordinator, speech pathologist, psychologist and any outside agencies involved

2. **Key Centre Policies**

  • Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose: See Centre website for specific centre policies, or DECD website as appropriate

3. **Curriculum**

  • **Framework used:** The programme is planned using Belonging, Being and Becoming, the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia.

  • **Core Values:** We respect the cultural diversity of our children and families
  
  We promote and support children to engage in a safe, stimulating, play based learning environment where creativity and imagination is fostered.

  • We aim to provide a community where children, parents and staff work collaboratively to achieve best learning outcomes for all.

  • We provide an environment where trust, respect and sharing are valued, supported and promoted

  • **Specific curriculum approaches:** The programme is based on the principles and practices of the Early Years Learning Framework, is play based and
responds to the interests and learning needs of children. We have a strong literacy and numeracy focus. We provide opportunities each day to retell stories, use puppets, and perform in plays, dance and sing. All children are given the opportunity to build confidence to speak and perform in front of a group. We provide many opportunities for children to become confident users of various types of technologies, e.g. interactive whiteboard, ipads, photocopier, laminator, digital cameras and recorders etc. and the use of these in a multiliteracies context is a constant focus. We work closely with the Early years team from Torrens Primary school to make transition from Kindergarten to school as smooth as possible for all concerned. We program and plan our curriculum based on the needs and interests of individual children, which is ascertained through various forms of data collection and observational assessments.

Joint programmes/special curriculum projects: Being located next to Torrens Primary school enables us to have a strong transition to school. We are part of the West Torrens Council OPAL (obesity prevention and lifestyle) project.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile:
  Director 1.0
  Teacher 2 x .5
  ECW2 - 19 hours & ECW1 x 2 – 3.5 hours (Occasional Care)
  ECW1 31.5 hours (preschool programme)

  Performance Management Program: Staff have a meeting with director twice yearly to discuss centre site plan, training and development needs, and personal goals and achievements.

  Access to special support staff: We have access to preschool support staff as needed, as well as DECD speech pathologists and psychologists. We also liaise with other agencies such as: Disability Services, Autism S.A, Novita and CAYHS as the needs arise.

5. Centre Facilities

  Buildings and grounds

  - Buildings and grounds – Torrens Primary is a 20 year old purpose built centre, with 2 playrooms, a large covered verandah, and 2 spacious outdoor areas. The garden is well established, with a number of shady trees and covered play spaces, and a large lawn area.
  - Capacity (per session) 45 children
  - Centre Ownership: land and building owned by DECD
  - Access for children and staff with disabilities: Pram and wheelchair access, disabled adult toilet.

6. Local Community

  General characteristics:
Approximately 25% of children are from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds with most of those having English as a Second Language.

• Parent and community involvement in the preschool occurs formally through the Governing Council and informally within the programme. Governing Council consists of parents, staff and Preschool Director. The council is a small but active group responsible for establishing priorities, advising on policy, financial management and general maintenance of the centre with support of the Director.

• 70-80% of children transition to Torrensville Primary School which is adjacent to the Preschool.

• Many children also attend local Child Care Centres. We share many children with Torrensville Child Care Centre.