PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 5669

Centre name: SOMERTON PARK KINDERGARTEN

General information

Preschool Director
: Mrs Marie Cullen

Location/Postal address
: 3 Grantham rd Somerton Park 5044

Telephone number
: 08) 82961503

Fax Number
: 08) 83771672

Email address
: kindy.director@somertonkgn.sa.edu.au

Preschool website address
: www.somertonkgn.sa.edu.au

DECS Region
: Southern Adelaide

Geographical location
: We are in a beachside location approximately 12km from the Adelaide GPO

Enrolment/Attendance:
Currently we have 70 children attending the kindergarten. Our numbers follow a trend within the area of 64-70 children depending on the term. Like all surrounding kindergartens we are coping with an increase in demand due to the number of families with young children moving in to the area. From 2013 the kindergarten will commence a single intake system in keeping with government policy. Children commencing kindergarten in 2013 will need to turn 4 by April 30th

Somerton Park kindergarten is a stand alone kindergarten
Programs operating at the kindergarten:
Currently we are offering children 3 sessions of pre-entry on Friday mornings in their term prior to commencing kindergarten.

Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children:
Currently all children attend for 1 full day (2 sessions) and 2 half days. A small number of children access 2 full days.

Full days for all children are on Tuesday and Thursday.
From July 16th 2012 all children will be eligible to receive 15 hours of kindergarten per week. 

At Somerton Park children will attend in 2 groups.
Group A will attend 2 full days (Monday and Tuesday 8.30-3.15) and Friday morning from 8.30-11.30am on weeks 1, 3,5,7,9.
Group B will attend for 2 full days (Wednesday and Thursday 8.30-3.15) and Friday mornings from 8.30-11.30 on weeks 2, 4,6,8, 10.

Play group.
Playgroup is currently available from 10am-12 noon on Fridays from week 2-8. The group is led by Julieann Sutton, our coordinator, and parents are asked to assist with setting up and packing away. All families are welcome.

Bilingual Support:
Support for children with English as a second language is provided through DECD.

Preschool Support.
Through DECD we have access to Speech Pathologists, Psychologists, Social Workers, Special Educators and Aboriginal Educators.

Key Centre Policies:
Our Parent complaint policy can be found on this website. A number of policies are available at the kindergarten and they are listed below.

- Emergency procedures.
- Excursion policy
- Fee policy
- First aid and health practices and procedures
- Health and Hygiene policy
- Healthy eating policy
- Hot weather policy
- Priority of Access policy
- Skin Protection policy
- Grievance procedures.
Curriculum

OUR VALUES.

• Respect
• Caring
• Trust
• Sustainability
• Courage
• Inclusivity
• Integrity.

These values guide our everyday interactions with staff, families, children our employer and the wider community.

Our Principles

The period of early childhood development sets the foundation for lifelong learning, behaviour and health.

Play provides opportunities for children to actively discover, create, improvise and imagine as they learn. Children’s immersion in their play illustrates how play enables them to simply enjoy being.

Our educational planning is supported by the development of rich relationships between educators, children, parents and carers.

We create learning opportunities to develop life skills including educating for sustainable living. Our educators adopt a holistic view of children's development and well being.

The kindergarten community, consisting of educators, parents, children and carers, have a generous spirit which fosters a sense of belonging.

Happiness is the underlying core of every successful learner.

Our core business is education through play.

Our educational programme is based on the principles and practices of the Early Years Learning Framework. We are also using the Reflect, Respect, Relate document to enhance our understandings about young children.

There are 5 Learning Outcomes for the Early Years Framework. They are:

• Children have a strong sense of identity
• Children are connected with and contribute to their world
• Children have a strong sense of well being
• Children are confident and involved learners
• Children are effective communicators.

To achieve our vision for children we place great importance on developing relationships with our families and the children. We promote learning through play based experiences which are balanced with intentional teaching opportunities and following children’s interests.
We create a culture of acceptance and support for all, through planned and unplanned experiences and a focus on the development of life skills- tolerance, persistence, resilience, confidence, mutual respect and empathy.

We enjoy music and singing and this creates wonderful opportunities for fun and creativity as well as enhancing children's literacy.

Educating for sustainability is strength in our curriculum and the children have many opportunities to engage in gardening, recycling and connecting with nature. The kindergarten has recently been involved in the Healthy Eating/ Physical Activity programme. The kindergarten won an award from the Department of Environment (NRM) in 2011 for excellence in “Educating for Sustainability approach.”

**CODES OF PRACTICE**

Somerton Park Kindergarten acknowledges that it operates within legal requirements of the Education and Children’s Services Act Regulations, DECD policies, NQF regulations and the Industrial Awards

**Centre Based Staff Profile**

Director 1.0
Teacher 1
2 early childhood workers both working .5
Playgroup coordinator .1
Finance officer .1
Administration officer

**Performance Management Programme**

All staff are involved in a review process twice yearly

**Centre Facilities Buildings and grounds**

The kindergarten is situated in a well established seaside suburb. It has very large trees which provide a shaded environment and a natural play area for the children to enjoy. The building is approximately 60 years old and has been well maintained. T

Centre Ownership - Holdfast Bay Council

**Access for children and staff with disabilities.**

The centre has flat surfaces and is accessible for children and staff with disabilities. There is no disabled toilet.

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Local Community

Parent and community involvement in the preschool
A Governing Council made up of interested parents is elected each year in November to assist in the management of the kindergarten. This group are also responsible with the staff for organising various parent meetings each year.

Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool

Other local care and educational facilities.
There are a number of schools, kindergartens, child care centres and school with OHSC programmes nearby. Paringa Park Primary, Glenelg Primary and St Mary’s Memorial school are the 3 main schools that the kindergarten feeds to.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
The area is well served with public transport and is close to Glenelg and Brighton for shopping and services. Medical services are also nearby.

Accessibility
The service is easily reached by buses which travel on Brighton road and King George Avenue. These buses can connect to the train service at Brighton and to the Tram at Glenelg.

Local Government
Holdfast Bay Council

Further Comments

Partnership arrangements with other groups
The kindergarten is located close to Brighton Secondary School and is involved with programmes at the school as needs arise.
The kindergarten also supports the training of early childhood educators by offering places to Uni SA for students to undertake their practicum.