



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: May 2017

Centre number: 5669

Centre name: SOMERTON PARK KINDERGARTEN

1. General information

- **Preschool Director**
Laura Mathews
- **Postal address**
3 Grantham Road, Somerton Park SA 5044
- **Location address**
3 Grantham Road, Somerton Park SA 5044
- **DECD Partnership**
Holdfast
- **Geographical location**
Located in a beachside location approximately 12km from the Adelaide GPO
- **Telephone number**
8296 1503
- **Fax number**
8377 1672
- **Preschool website address:**
<http://www.somertonkgn.sa.edu.au/>
- **Preschool e-mail address**
dl.5669.director@schools.sa.edu.au

- **Enrolment/Attendance**

Currently we have 65 children attending the kindergarten. Our numbers follow a trend within the area of 60-66. Like all surrounding kindergartens we are coping with an increase in demand due to the number of families with young children moving into the area. Our attendance rate of children is very high.

- **Co-located/stand-alone**

Somerton Park Kindergarten is a stand-alone kindergarten.

- **Programs operating at the preschool**

Daily kindergarten. All children are offered 15 hours of preschool. These configure as 2 full days each week from 8.15am - 3.45pm.

At Somerton Park children attend in 2 groups.

Group A will attend 2 full days (Monday and Tuesday 8.15am -3.45pm)

Group B will attend for 2 full days (Wednesday and Thursday 8.15am - 3.45pm)

- **Occasional Care**

Somerton Park Kindergarten does not offer Occasional Care

- **Associated Programs**

Somerton Park Kindergarten does not currently offer Associated Programs

- **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, Special Educators and Aboriginal Educators.

2. Key Centre Policies

- **Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose**

Our Parent Complaint Policy can be found on our website. A number of policies and procedures are available at the kindergarten and they are listed below.

Emergency Procedures

Fee Policy

First Aid

Healthy eating policy

Hot weather policy

Priority of access policy

Skin protection policy

Grievance procedures

3. Curriculum

- **Framework used:**

Early Years Learning Framework

- **Core Values**

Respect

Caring

Trust

Sustainability

Courage

Inclusivity

Integrity

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

- **Specific curriculum approaches**

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 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

4. Centre Based Staff

- **Staff Profile**

Director 1.0

Teacher 1.0

2 early childhood workers both working .5

Finance officer.

Administration officer.

- **Performance Management Program**

All staff are involved in a review process twice yearly

5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

The kindergarten is situated in a well-established seaside suburb. The building is approximately 70 years old and has been well maintained.

- **Capacity** (per session)

33

- **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 not a disabled toilet.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool**

A Governing Council made up of interested parents is elected each year 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**

Paringa Park Primary school

Glenelg Primary school

St Mary's Memorial school

Brighton Primary school

St Peter's Woodlands

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

There are a number of, child care centres and schools with OHSC programmes nearby. Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

- **Other local facilities**

Somerton Surf Life Saving Club, Somerton Table Tennis Club, Marion Library; Marion Sports and Recreation Centre; Marion open air swimming centre and the Aquatic Centre Oaklands Park.

- **Availability of staff housing**

There is not any staff housing available

- **Accessibility**

The service is easily reached by buses with 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

7. 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 UniSA for students to undertake their practicum.