



# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: September 2012

**Centre number:** 6628

**Centre name:** Whyalla Stuart Early Childhood Centre - Kindergarten

## 1. General information

- **Centre name**  
Whyalla Stuart Early Childhood Centre - Kindergarten
- **Centre number**  
6628
- **Preschool Director**  
Lavenia Dadleh
- **Postal address**  
24 Ramsay Street WHYALLA STUART 5608
- **Location address**  
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- **Telephone number**  
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[kindy.director@whyallakqn.sa.edu.au](mailto:kindy.director@whyallakqn.sa.edu.au)
- **DECS District – Eyre & Western Region**  
Whyalla / Port Augusta
- **Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)**  
approximately 5 km from Whyalla City PO  
approximately 400 km from Adelaide GPO
- **Enrolment/Attendance**  
The centre currently has 56 children enrolled for full time kindergarten, however the average daily attendance is 48. We have 6 children enrolled in pre entry and 16 enrolled in occasional care.
- **Co-located/stand-alone**  
The centre functions as a stand alone centre

## **Programs operating at the Centre**



### Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children

- The centre currently offers 9 kindergarten sessions, a choice of one full day and a choice of 3 more morning sessions or 3 afternoon sessions from Monday to Thursday.



### Inclusive Preschool Program

- This program caters for children with disabilities with high support needs. Children have a full day on Tuesday and 3 morning sessions.



### Pre-Entry

- The centre offers pre-entry for children who are aged 3 years and 9 months or over. Pre-entry sessions are integrated with kindergarten sessions.



### Extended Care

- The centre provides early care for families on a needs base, this is provided at a cost and is not an advertised program.



### Lunch/Full Day Program

- Parents are able to arrange lunch care as required at a cost.



### Bilingual Support

- Bilingual support is requested as determined by the needs of attending children. The Centre has used this service in the past for supporting children of non-english speaking backgrounds.



### Preschool Support

- Preschool support is available for children who have been identified with a specific developmental delay or disability. Requests are made in accordance with these identified needs of the children. The Director, teaching staff and appropriate specialists consider the child's needs and work in consultation with parents. There is a growing number of children accessing PSS through this Centre.



### Occasional Care (indicate whether funded or unfunded)

- The centre offers one occasional care session per week to children aged between 2 and 3 years of age. This service is funded by the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD).



### Partnerships 21 status

- The Centre joined P21 in 2000, and has been functioning for four years.

### DECD Support Services

- Special Disabilities Co-ordinator, School Guidance Officer, and Speech Pathologists are available on request or when children are referred for support.

### Playgroup

- This program operates by parents every Friday morning from 10am to 12pm. Parents co-ordinate this service

## 2. Key Centre Policies

Centre priorities

-  Goal 1: to improve children's achievements levels in literacy and numeracy skills
-  Goal 2: to improve attendance patterns of children enrolled at the Centre
-  Goal 3: to improve children's wellbeing
-  Goal 4: to increase parent participation

## 3. Curriculum

- **Framework used:**

Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) – Belonging, Being & Becoming (B, B & B)  
Respect, Reflect, Relate Document

- **Core Values**

As a staff we value the diversity of our kindergarten community and recognise the riches each family brings. We understand and accept there are many ways to do things and every way has it's merits - learning is a journey we happily share with children, parents and other significant people in a child's life.

**To support this staff had:**

-  Early Years Learning Framework is a basis for planning a quality program
-  Provide a play based learning program to foster and develop positive life skills and competencies
-  Provide a multi-sensory play based environment
-  Building on positive relationships with parents
-  Striving to maintain an effective working team environment
-  We will provide an aesthetically pleasing environment that is safe, nurturing, stimulating, challenging and inclusive with a quality educational program for all eligible children.
-  Identify, extend and support children whose developmental needs fall outside the average range
-  Documentation of children's achievements and experiences in a variety of ways
-  Communicate with parents about their child's involvement and progress

- ✚ Maintain liaisons with the local school, library and childcare centre

## **Values and Principles**

Our team is committed to the wellbeing of each individual child and acknowledges the uniqueness of each child. We believe that young children learn best through play, therefore, we will provide each child with the opportunity to develop to their full potential through a range of play orientated experiences that respect and include their different life experiences.

Our team will strive to involve the parents and ensure that they are respected and valued as the prime caregivers and to recognise and value their different life styles.

To achieve this our team will act with Respect, Trust, Tolerance, Commitment, Honesty, Care and Support.

- **Joint programmes/special curriculum projects**

- Child and Youth Health: Screenings are organised for children accessing the centre. The health checks are conducted at the centre. Appointment times and the distribution of a questionnaire are organised by the Director.
- Child Health Team from the Whyalla Hospital work closely with the staff to outline individual children's programs and provide training and development.

## **4. Centre Based Staff**

- **Staff Profile**

- 1.0 Director
- 1.0 Teacher
- 1.0 ECW
- 0.8 Aboriginal Family Literacy Strategy Teacher
- 0.6 Inclusive Preschool Program Teacher
- 0.6 Inclusive Preschool Program ECW
- 0.2 Occasional Worker
- 1 Support Workers

- **Performance Management Program**

Director has a personal performance plan which is discussed in consultation with the Assistant Regional Director once per term.

Staff has performance management meetings with the Director annually.

Staff are encouraged to discuss any issues relating to performance management as they arise.

The Parent Opinion Survey is distributed to parents in Term 3 each year and is a good indicator of parents opinions of staff performance.

- Access to special support staff

Disabilities Co-ordinator: works in partnership with staff and parents to support the inclusion of children with additional needs within the centre

Other DECD Support Services include Hearing Impairment; Guidance and Early Childhood Psychologist and Interagency Student Behaviour Management.

## **5. Centre Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds

The Centre was established in 1975 and is still in sound condition for 30 years old. It was extended in 1997 with a new 'wing' added. The exterior of the building was painted and outdoor improvements made.

In 2001 a 1.5 metre pool fence was erected around the centre providing safety for the children and security for the Centre.

The Centre has a large bathroom area for the children and a staff/ disabled toilet with a shower and nappy changing facilities for children in the IPP, Occasional Care and Playgroup.

There are 2 'withdrawal rooms', although small they are used by the Inclusive Preschool Program and by speech pathologists, OT's, CYHS, Early Intervention and support workers. We have a very large office area that is comfortable and spacious to work in.

- Capacity (per session)

The Centre is an 82 place site, with numbers evenly distributed in morning and afternoon sessions.

- Centre Ownership

The building is owned by DECD and the land by Whyalla City Council.

- Access for children and staff with disabilities

The Centre features paved and concrete entrances with easy access for wheelchairs, frames and prams.

## **6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)**

- General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments)

Cultural diversity is one of the attractions for Whyalla with many cultures represented here. Onesteel (formerly BHP) would be the major employer with other large companies also presenting employment opportunities eg Brambles, Target, Harris Scarfe. The city has recently undergone huge developments with Harvey Norman, Spotlight, Toyworld, Beta Electrical stores that have opened.

- Parent and community involvement in the pre-school

Parent involvement in the Centre varies, as do the types of parents. Any participation/involvement is encouraged and supported. Some parents may choose to collect adjuncts for the collage trolley, as their contribution others may choose to become part of the Governing Council – each level is as important as the other.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this pre-school

While we are closely linked with Whyalla Stuart Campus parents exercise their right to choice and we currently have children transferring to 6 different schools within the district, both private and public.

- Other local care and educational facilities, eg child care, schools, OSHC

Whyalla has 3 Child Care Centres (one of these is a Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services Centre), Occasional Care Centre (0.5), 6 Pre-schools, 6 public primary schools, 3 private primary schools, 3 Secondary schools (two years 8 – 10 & one years 11 – 12), 1 private Secondary school, Spencer Institute of TAFE and the Whyalla Campus of the University of South Australia. Most of the primary schools have an Out of Schools Hour care program.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

The industrial area of the City is along the two major highways, the north from Pt Augusta and the south from Pt Lincoln. Whyalla has a large shopping complex with national chainstores eg Target, Rockman's, Miller's, Hourglass Jewellers, Go-Lo, Bi-Lo, Woolworth's as well as speciality shops on the western side of the city. The City Plaza or 'Main Street' offers a wide variety of stores including furniture and decorating shops and is on the eastern side of Whyalla. There are several smaller shopping sites around town.

- Other local facilities, eg medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational

The recently redeveloped Recreation and Leisure Centre provides indoor swimming facilities with a waterslide, indoor volleyball/ badminton/netball courts, aerobics area and gym. The Middleback Theatre is the venue for movies, plays and performances. There is an abundance of sporting clubs and special interest groups.

- Availability of staff housing

Teaching staff are able to apply for housing through Real Estate Management, there are a number of houses and maisonettes available for public employees in Whyalla. REM houses are provided to public employees at a reduced rate. Houses are available through private rental and through Real Estate Agents, although at times there is a shortage of rental accommodation.

- Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality

O'Connor Airlines is the provider of air travel to and from Adelaide, and Stateliner runs a daily bus service. Travel by vehicle to Whyalla is via High Way One and the Lincoln Highway

- Local Government body (name, phone number), availability of publications describing the local area (with source, cost), characteristics, level of involvement

Whyalla City Council - Mayor – Jim Pollock

The council publishes a Guide to Whyalla annually and is distributed to each household free.

## 7. Further Comments

- Establishment of new services and/or programs

Inclusive Preschool Program for children with disabilities with high support needs operated from Term 1 2003:

The Inclusive Preschools Program provides support to preschool children with disabilities with high support needs.

Dedicated IPP staff (.5 teacher and .5 ECW) will work collaboratively with the preschool staff contributing their skills and expertise in the planning and delivery of quality, developmentally appropriate programs for children with disabilities with high support needs. The IPP staff will develop individual learning plans for each child in the IPP.

The preschool will operate as a Centre with expertise in the inclusion of children with disabilities with high support needs by sharing expertise with the local network of preschools through hands on training and peer based mentoring and support strategies.

Early Years Literacy Program for three year old Aboriginal children. Specialised activities are provided to improve the children's interest of relevant Literacy opportunities. A full time teacher has been warranted to the Centre to promote literacy skills for these children. However, we do incorporate all eligible children who attend preschool the opportunity to access this service.

Child and Youth Health Team conduct developmental health checks at the centre twice a year (Term 1 & Term 3) for children 4 -5 years old.