



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 10/12

Centre number: 4670

Centre name: Thorndon Park Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Maggie Cooper
- Postal and Location address: 13 Nestor Street, Athelstone, 5076
- DECD Region: Campbell Partnership
- Geographical location : 11kms east of GPO in foothills of Adelaide
- Telephone number: 8336 1422
- Fax number: 8365 5739
- Preschool website address: www.thorndonkgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.4670_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance: Enrolment: Average enrolment 55 - 60 Attendance: 55
- Co-located/stand-alone: Stand alone
- Programs operating at the preschool:
 - ⊞ 2 Playgroup Style transition visits offered to each child at the end of Term 4 each year.

- ⌘ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children:

Full Day Programs: 2 Groups: Monday Tuesday Group or Wednesday / Thursday group

8:40am to 3:30pm

Each group receives 2 Full Day Friday sessions per Term

Children receive an average of 15 hours of kindergarten per week over the course of the term.

- ⌘ Bilingual Support: May be accessed if required

- ⌘ Preschool Support: May be accessed if required

2. Key Centre Policies

- Vision: Thorndon Park Kindergarten is a partnership of parents, caregivers and staff committed to developing the knowledge, skills, dispositions and values of children to become independent, optimistic learners and respectful, responsible citizens.
- Core Values: The Staff, Governing Council, Families and Children share a common understanding of the following values. They are implicit in relationships and underpin decision making at Thorndon Park Kindergarten.
- **Respect:** We value all people and treat everyone with care, honesty, consideration and equity.
- **Optimism:** We promote confidence and resilience to empower children to meet the challenges of a changing world.
- **Inquiry:** We value the expression of different view points, which allows people to openly explore and discuss their ideas and feelings, encouraging greater understanding, reflection and continuous improvement
- **Excellence:** We believe in striving for continual improvement and sustained quality across all aspects of the learning environment.

- **Creativity:** We encourage imagination, inventiveness and resourcefulness.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework – Belonging, Being, Becoming. Programming and Reporting based on the Learning Outcomes.
- The Indicators of Preschool Numeracy and Literacy are also used by educators when planning their teaching and reporting to families.
- The Move to Learn Program is an embedded part of the kindergarten curriculum.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile:
Director 1.0
Teacher 1.0
ECW 0.5
ECW 0.4
- Performance Management Program: Staff develop a performance development plan each year, that support the improvement priorities outlined in the kindergarten's QIP
- Access to special support staff is negotiated depending on the needs of the children

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds:
The kindergarten was opened in 1975. There is a spacious main kindy room, a library, office and store room. The indoor area has been refurbished over recent years and is well maintained and attractive.
The outdoor learning environment is shaded with native trees, and includes a chicken coop, vegetable garden, sandpit and imaginative play area.
- Capacity (per session): 33
- Centre Ownership: DECD
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: There are no steps or stairs to impede access

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: The kindergarten is located in a quiet street in a residential suburb
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool: The kindy has an active and supportive Governing Council. Parents are keen to participate in special experiences and events, and assist with preparing resources and the washing roster.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: Our children move on to a number of schools including the following:
 - Thorndon Park Primary School
 - Stradbroke School
 - Paradise Primary School
 - Charles Campbell College
 - St Francis of Assisi School
 - St Joseph's School Tranmere
- Other local care and educational facilities,
 - Goodstart Gorge Road, Emali Early Learning Centre, Campbelltown Child Care Centre, Motessori Newton Road
- Other local facilities: There is a good sized shopping centre approximately 1km away and there are several local medical centres. Thorndon Park Reserve is less than 5kms from the kindergarten.
- Availability of staff housing: Private rental properties available locally.
- Accessibility : Public transport is accessible from a bus stop on a major road a short walk away
- Local Government : Campbelltown City Council

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups:

The kindergarten is a member of the DECD Campbell Partnership. The leadership and staff have close professional relationships with local schools and preschools through this partnership.

There is a close link with Campbelltown City Council through their OPAL program that promotes healthy eating and an active lifestyle.