



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT - 2023

Centre number: 4670

Centre name: Thorndon Park Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Samantha Chirgwin
- Postal and Location address: 13 Nestor Street, Athelstone, 5076
- 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 44 - 55 Attendance: 66
- Co-located/stand-alone: Stand alone.

- Programs operating at the preschool:
- Orientation visit offered to each child during term 2 and term 4 each year.

- Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children:
- Full Day Programs: 2 Groups: Monday Tuesday Group or Wednesday Thursday group: 8:15am to 3:45pm.
- Children receive 15 hours of kindergarten per week.
- Bilingual Support: May be accessed if required.
- Preschool Support: May be accessed if required.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose
- 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
Teacher 0.3
ECW 0.6
- Access to special support staff is negotiated depending on the learning and development needs of children.

- Performance Management Program: Staff develop a performance development plan each year, that support the improvement priorities outlined in the kindergarten's Preschool Quality Improvement Plan.

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, new front garden with raised food garden and natives and a sandpit with running creek for imaginative play.
- Capacity (per session):
- 33 (term 3 and 4 2023).
- Centre Ownership: Department for Education South Australia.
- 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 a range of experiences and events and welcomed to support kindergarten in any way possible, including sharing information about their work roles, caring for our kindy hens and helping prepare resources.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: Our children attend a number of schools in the local area, 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, Eden Academy, Emali Early Learning Centre, Campbelltown Child Care Centre.

- Other local facilities: There is an updated shopping centre approximately 1km away and there are several local medical centres. Thorndon Park Reserve is less than 5kms from the kindergarten and Padulesi Park and Black Hill are within walking distance.
- 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 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, Athelstone Community Garden at Padulesi Park, Blach Hill Conservation Park and Thordnon Park Primary School.