



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT –

Updated January 2026

Centre number: 4670

Centre name: Thorndon Park Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Kate McMahon
 - 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: 44
 - Co-located/stand-alone: Stand alone.
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- Programs operating at the preschool:
 - Orientation visit offered to each child during term 2 and term 4 each year.
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- 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:
At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, our key policies reflect our commitment to safe, respectful relationships, children's rights, voice and agency, and meaningful family engagement. Guided by *Being, Belonging and Becoming*, our policies support an environment where every child feels safe, valued, respected and included. We recognise children as capable, curious learners and educators as researchers and reflective practitioners, continually listening, observing and learning alongside children to inform our practice and environments. We value children's ideas, perspectives and many ways of communicating, encouraging them to question, explore, contribute and develop as confident, capable lifelong learners. Families are welcomed as partners and children's first teachers, with their knowledge, culture, perspectives and contributions valued in our learning and decision-making. Our policies provide a shared foundation for consistent, thoughtful and inclusive practices that support children's wellbeing, learning, participation and sense of belonging.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used:
Our curriculum is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework V2 – *Belonging, Being and Becoming* and shaped by children's voices, relationships, interests and experiences.

The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum is embedded throughout our everyday curriculum, supporting children to develop an understanding of safety, respectful relationships, feelings, body awareness and help-seeking. We also support children to develop an understanding of Country, connection to place and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures, histories and perspectives, recognising the importance of learning from and caring for Country. Educators draw on the Preschool Indicators of Numeracy and Literacy to inform intentional teaching, planning and assessment, building these skills naturally through children's play, inquiry and everyday experiences. The Music Education Strategy supports children's learning through opportunities to explore music, rhythm, movement, instruments, singing and sound, encouraging creativity, communication, confidence and connection. These frameworks and strategies complement our play-based, inquiry approach and support us to provide rich and meaningful learning opportunities that nurture children as curious, capable and lifelong learners.

At Thorndon Park Kindergarten, we believe children learn through play, relationships, curiosity and their many ways of expressing and making sense of the world. We see each child as a capable and curious learner, building on the knowledge, ideas and experiences they bring with them. Inspired by Reggio Emilia, we value the 100 languages of children, recognising that children communicate and explore their thinking through movement, drawing, music, construction, storytelling, mark-

making, play and many other forms. Our educators listen closely, working alongside children to extend their thinking through inquiry and intentional teaching. We thoughtfully design our environments to invite curiosity, creativity, collaboration and independence, recognising the environment as an important teacher alongside children and educators.

We believe children thrive when they feel safe, accepted, valued and connected, and we foster a strong sense of belonging by treating everyone with kindness, empathy and dignity while respecting and celebrating each child's unique identity, culture, abilities and perspectives. We see children as natural investigators, encouraging them to wonder, question, explore and develop their own theories about the world. We believe learning is strengthened through relationships, with children, families and educators working together as partners in learning. We provide opportunities for children to express themselves through their many languages, nurturing imagination, innovation and creative thinking through art, music, storytelling, movement, construction, dramatic play and more. We support children to become thoughtful caretakers of their environment, developing respect for nature, care for Country and an understanding of sustainable choices.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile: Full time Director, 1.7 Teachers, and 0.6 Early Childhood Worker. Additional staff negotiated according to children's needs.
- 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

- Thorndon Park Kindergarten was opened in 1975 and is set within a spacious, welcoming site. The kindergarten includes a large main learning room, offices and storage areas. The indoor learning environment has been refurbished over recent years and is well maintained, warm and inviting.
- Our outdoor learning environment is an important part of children's learning and is intentionally designed to encourage curiosity, creativity, exploration and connection with nature. Shaded by established native trees, the outdoor space includes healthy gardens with a mix of native plants and vegetables, a sandpit with a running creek, mud kitchen, cubby house, lawn, swings and a range of open-ended spaces and materials.
- The environment is thoughtfully arranged to provide children with opportunities to make choices, follow their interests, develop ideas and

learn through play. In keeping with our Reggio-inspired approach, we view the environment as an important part of the learning experience, with both indoor and outdoor spaces supporting children to be capable, curious and active participants in their learning.

- Capacity (per session): 22
- 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

General Characteristics

- Thorndon Park Kindergarten is located in a quiet residential street within a welcoming and culturally diverse community. The kindergarten is surrounded by local parks, schools and community services, with many families living close by.
- The Kindy values strong, respectful relationships with children and their families and recognises families as their child's first teachers and important partners in their learning. Families are warmly welcomed into the kindergarten and encouraged to share their knowledge, experiences, cultures, interests and ideas with us. We value opportunities to work alongside families to support children's learning and wellbeing, building genuine connections between home and kindergarten. Our active and supportive Governing Council also provides an important avenue for family voice, contribution and partnership within our kindergarten community.
- 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
 - Athelstone School
 - Paradise Primary School
 - 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, Black Hill Conservation Park and Thorndon Park Primary School.