

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT Updated: Feb 2018

Centre number: 6617

Centre name: Flinders Children's Centre

1. General information

Centre name: Flinders Children's Centre

Centre number : 6617

Preschool Director: Kerry Moosha

Postal address: 122 Tassie Street Port Augusta SA 5700

Location address: 122 Tassie Street Port Augusta SA 5700

Telephone number :(08)8642 2067

Fax number:(08)8642 6646

Website address: <http://www.flinderscc.sa.edu.au>

DETE District: Port Augusta and Quorn Partnership

Geographical location – road distance from GPO (km): 5kms

Enrolment/Attendance: 69 eligible enrolments

Co-located/stand-alone: Stand-alone centre

Programs operating

Pre Entry/ Tji Tji Wiltja 3 year old Aboriginal Program : A pre-entry program is offered to children in the term prior to starting eligible attendance. Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children: Sessions of preschool are offered on a weekly basis from Monday to Thursday. Morning sessions run from 8.45am -12.00am and afternoon session's from 12.00pm – 2.45pm. Four-year-olds are entitled to attend five sessions of preschool a week, for four terms prior to starting school. Aboriginal children or under the guardianship of the Minister for Education and Child Development, may attend for four sessions from the age of three years, and once they have turned four they can attend for five sessions per week. Children with additional needs may be able to start preschool two terms before they normally start. This is decided on a case by case basis in collaboration with Regional Office Student Services. We offer two options for attendance for families to choose from, they are:

Session Time

3 year olds:

Monday/ Tuesday full day 8:45am – 2.45pm or

Wednesday/ Thursday full day 8.45am – 2.45pm

or half days **Monday- Thursday**

4 year olds:

Eligible 4 year olds are allocated 3 full days

* Options depend upon availability and negotiation with Director.

Lunch/Full Day Program: A lunchtime program operates for children attending full days.

Bilingual Support: 3 hours per week through the Preschool Bilingual Program.

Preschool Support: The Department for Education and Child Development have specialist staff and resources to support children with special needs and their families. Extra support is provided through the preschool support program to support children's access and participation.

2. Key Centre Policies

Centre Priorities and other key statements or policies

Goal 1: Improve children's achievement levels in literacy and numeracy.

Due to extra funding received we have a 0.8 Literacy/ Numeracy teacher who works with small groups of children developing concepts.

Goal 2: Improve attendance rates.

The centre follows up on non-attendance and completes home visits to support families.

Goal 3: Improve learning opportunities through a stimulating and engaging learning environment.

Development of outdoor environment.

Goal 4: Promote healthy eating.

Through our nutritional Program/ garden program.

Goal 5: Improve children's learning by critically reflecting on practice.

Goal 6: Working towards the National Quality Standard. Some of our priorities for 2017 include:

- Improving accessibility of information to families
- Improving planning processes & documentation
- Implementation of a sustainability strategy
- Supporting staff to further their qualifications
- Supporting children's learning dispositions
- Increasing the number of children receiving their 4 year old health check

Goal 7: Improving children's literacy through a focus on oral language:

Specifically children's narrative skills.

Goal 8: Preparing for Same First Day of school: rethinking enrolment procedures, curriculum, assessment and transition.

3. Curriculum

Framework used - Belonging, Being & Becoming: the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

: Belonging, Being and Becoming is the national early learning framework for children from birth to five years. The framework outlines principles and practices that Underpin the kindergarten's philosophy and educational pedagogy. Through the framework's themes of belonging, being and becoming and the five learning goals, our educators work alongside children in developing: a strong sense of their identity and wellbeing, connections with and contributions to their world, confidence and involvement in their learning; and effective communication skills.

Specific curriculum approaches

: Reggio Emilia influences- voice of child strong in learning programmes, strong sense of belonging, identity and connections.

: Respect for the child

: Strong Art/Creativity focus

: Strong Literacy/ Numeracy focus

: Nature play principles

Core Values: To provide high quality teaching and learning programs where each child is encouraged and supported to reach their full potential. To develop positive partnerships with families and the community. To work as a collaborative team that is reflective and committed to improving service delivery.

Specific curriculum approaches: Provision of a play based curriculum that is age appropriate and includes intentional teaching opportunities. Plan, implement and evaluate programs in place. Assess and report on children's learning and development. Communicate with parents/caregivers regarding their children's progress. Staff to develop their own learning to enhance their work in early childhood education.

Joint programmes/special curriculum projects

Transition Program: A transition to school policy has been established for Port Augusta preschools and primary schools.

Pika Wiya Health Service Inc.: Provides a child hearing health program to the centre each term. The screening includes otoscope, tympanogram and audiology.

Child and Youth Health: Screenings are organised for children accessing the centre. The health checks are conducted at the centre. Appointment times are arranged. Child Health Team from Flinders Terrace Health Centre work closely with the staff to outline individual children's programs and provide training and development.

4. Centre Based Staff

Staff Profile: 1 Director: (1.0), 1 Teacher (1.0) and 1 Early Childhood Worker (0.5).

Additional staffing employed due to funding allocations.

Performance Management Program: Staff are responsible for completing their own Performance and Development Plan by the end of term 1. Plan jointly agreed to by staff member and director. Mid cycle review organised term 3. At the end of term 4 the plan is finalised.

Access to special support staff: Disabilities Coordinator: Works in partnership with early childhood staff and parents to support the inclusion of children with additional needs within the centre.

Hearing Impairment Services: Teacher consultants provide a collaborative Consultancy service.

Speech Pathology Services: Speech pathologists provide a support service to help meet the needs of children with communication difficulties.

Guidance Services and Early Childhood Psychologists: Guidance officers and registered psychologists provide an educational psychological service for staff to cater more effectively for the academic, social and emotional needs of children.

Interagency Student Behaviour Management Services: Student management team members support preschool staff in working with children with behavioural difficulties.

Port Augusta has a Child Health Team accessible through Flinders Terrace Health Centre: speech pathologist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist and dietician.

Other services available include Paediatrician, Child Development Unit, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service and Child and Youth Health.

5. Centre Facilities

Buildings and grounds: The centre's building consists of the following areas: staff and children toilet area, change room, kitchen, office, storerooms and main classroom area.

The outdoor area consists of Nature play areas, sheds, bike track, large decking, swings, climbing equipment, sandpit chook yard, cottage garden and the yard is abundant with fruit trees and a vegetable garden. Structures, seating, sun shades, sensory path, home corner, enclosed sandpit area, lawn area, herb gardens. The centre is aesthetically pleasing, with well-established grounds and facilities.

Capacity (per session): 50 children

Centre Ownership: The centre is occupying council land.

Access for children and staff with disabilities

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

General characteristics: (e.g. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments): Flinders Children's Centre is located in the city of Port Augusta. There is great diversity in the cultural backgrounds of people within the local community with differing socio-economic and family structures. These influences impact on our centre and thus we implement programs and structures accordingly. Currently approximately 98% of enrolments within the centre are Indigenous children.

Parent and community involvement in the preschool: The centre's Governing Council consists of a group of parents who meet approximately twice per term to make decisions related to the operation of the centre such as finance, fundraising, the purchase of new equipment/resources, building upgrades and maintenance. The centre promotes parent and community involvement in the following activities:

- * Community visitors to the centre
- * Promote local community events
- * Encourage parental involvement into the centre's program
- * Organise family events such as family nights

Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: Our feeder schools are Caritas College, Willsden Primary School, Carlton Primary School, StirlingNorth Primary School, Augusta Park Primary School and Flinders View Primary School.

Other local care and educational facilities, e.g. child care, schools, OSHC: Child Care Centres: TAFE, Port Augusta Child Care Centre.

Preschools: Port Augusta West C.S.C, Augusta Park Children's Services, Willsden C.S.C, and Stirling North C.S.C.

Primary Schools: Augusta Park P.S, Flinders View P.S, Port Augusta West P.S, Carlton P.S, Stirling North P.S and Willsden P.S. Port Augusta Secondary School: Seaview Campus and Stirling Campus.

Combined Primary and Secondary: Port Augusta School of the Air.

Catholic School: Caritas College (reception to year 12).

Port Augusta Special School.

Child Parent Centre: Located at Flinders View P.S.

Family Day Care.

Out of School Hours Care Service (including vacation care).

RICE (Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise).

Spencer Institute of TAFE.

Early Learning Program.

Learning Together Program

Early Years Parenting Centre

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: Port Augusta has a wide variety of shopping facilities available including speciality stores, clothing, hardware, furniture, home

accessories and food stores. There is a main shopping centre situated on Commercial Road. Other local facilities, e.g. medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational: Hospital, police station, Flinders Terrace Health Centre, council, church services, library, outdoor swimming pool, shopping centres, parks, playgrounds, cinema, Flying Doctor Base and tourism attractions (Arid Lands, Curdnatta Art Centre, Flinders Rangers and Wadlata). Port Augusta has a wide range of sporting club activities.

Availability of staff housing: Yes

Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality: Air service: Sharp Airlines provide a passenger service to and from Adelaide on a daily basis. Premier Stateliner Coach Group provides passenger and parcel services daily to and from Adelaide.

Local Government body (name, phone number), availability of publications describing the local area (with source, cost), characteristics, level of involvement : Corporation of Port Augusta Phone number: 8641 9100/Fax: 8641 0357

Email: admin@portaugusta.sa.gov.au

Internet: www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au.

7. Further Comments