

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: Feb 2015

Centre number: 6605

Centre name: Augusta Park Childhood Services Centre

1. General information

- Centre name
:Augusta Park Childhood Services Centre
- Centre number
:6605
- Preschool Director
:Sonya Gee-Davis
- Postal address
:P.O. Box 585, Port Augusta SA 5700
- Location address
:2 Bailey Street, Port Augusta SA 5700
- Telephone number
:(08)8642 3399
- Fax number
:(08)8641 0136
- Website address
:augustapkcsc.sa.edu.au
- e-mail address
:dl.6605_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- DECD Partnership
:Port Augusta/Quorn Partnership
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
:5kms
- Enrolment/Attendance
: 60 eligible enrolments
- Co-located/stand-alone
:Stand-alone centre
- Programs operating
 Transition to preschool

: A transition program is offered to children in the term prior to starting eligible attendance. These arrangements are to be finalised for 2015.

Sessional Preschool for eligible children

: Children are entitled to attend up to 15 hours of preschool per week for four terms before they start school. The following arrangements are in place to enable children to access their entitled hours over a fortnight (30 hours).

Option 1 session times:

Monday: 8.30am – 3.15pm

Tuesday: 8.30am – 3.15pm

Odd Fridays of each term starting week 1: 8.30am – 11.30am

Option 2 session times:

Wednesday: 8.30am – 3.15pm

Thursday: 8.30am – 3.15pm

Even Fridays of each term starting week 2: 8.30am – 11.30am

*Options depend upon availability and negotiation with Preschool Director.

Children with special rights may be able to start preschool two terms before they would normally start. This is decided on a case by case basis, as per guidelines.

Children who are Aboriginal or under the guardianship of the Minister are entitled to attend up to 12 hours of preschool per week from three years of age and 15 hours, at the beginning of the year before starting school. The 12 hours can be accessed as 2 full days: 8.30am – 2.30pm. The 15 hours are to be accessed as outlined above for option 1 or option 2.

Lunch/Full Day Program.

: A lunchtime program operates for children attending full days.

Bilingual Support

: No support allocated

Preschool Support

: The Department for Education and Child Development have specialist staff and resources to support children with special rights and their families. Extra support is provided through the preschool support program to support children's access and participation for those whom are eligible.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities and other key statements or policies:
Whole centre approach in place to improve children's Numeracy and Literacy skills.

Use of the RRR to improve practices

Promotion of healthy lifestyles

Curriculum focus on sustainable practices

Curriculum focus on caring for and contributing positively to our environment

Improvement to the physical environment to facilitate learning and development

Each child is supported to feel secure, confident and included

Actively engage families and the community in the the preschool

Educators are provided constructive feedback, direction, guidance, and support on how to improve performance

Educators reflect on their practice

3. Curriculum

- Framework used:
: Early Years Learning Framework – Belonging, Being & Becoming.
- 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 that are in place.
Assess and report on children's learning and development.
Communicate with parents/caregivers regarding their child/children's progress.
Educators to develop their own learning to enhance their work in early childhood education.

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
Child and Youth Health: Four year old 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 Preschool Director.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
: 1 Director: (1.0), 1 Teacher (1.0) and 1 Early Childhood Worker (1.0). Additional staffing employed due to funding allocations.
- Performance Management Program
: Educators are responsible for completing their own Performance and Development Plan by the end of term 1. Plan jointly agreed to by Educator and Preschool Director. Reviews are organised each term. At the end of term 4 the plan is finalised. Each educator will develop their own eportfolio in 2015.
- Access to special support staff
: Disabilities Coordinator: Works in partnership with educators and parents to support the inclusion of children with special rights 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 educators to cater more effectively for the academic, social and emotional needs of children.
Interagency Student Behaviour Management Services: Student management team members support preschool educators 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 preschool's building consists of the following areas: toilet area, change room, kitchen, office, storeroom and main classroom area.
The outdoor area consists of four sheds, bike track, amphitheatre, swings, climbing structures, seating, sun shades, sensory path, turtle enclosure,

lawn area, vegetable garden, native plant area, herb garden, bush tucker area, garden areas, outdoor kitchen, sandpit, verandah and shelter area. The centre is aesthetically pleasing, with well-established grounds and facilities.

- Capacity (per session)
: 30 children
- Centre Ownership
: The centre is occupying council land.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities
: The centre provides wheelchair access to the main entrance of the building.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments)
: Augusta Park Childhood Services 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 preschool and thus we implement programs and structures accordingly. Currently approximately 40% of enrolments within the centre are Indigenous children.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
: The preschool's Governing Council consists of a group of parents who meet approximately once per month 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 preschool's program
 - * Organise family events such as graduation
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
: Our main feeder schools are Augusta Park, Port Augusta West and Caritas College. Children also attend other schools in the community including Willsden Primary School, Stirling North Primary School, Flinders View Primary School and Carlton School.

- Other local care and educational facilities:
 - Preschools: Port Augusta West C.S.C, Flinders Children’s Centre, 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 School, Stirling North P.S and Willsden P.S.
 - Port Augusta Secondary School
 - Combined Primary and Secondary: Port Augusta School of the Air.
 - Catholic School: Caritas College (reception to year 12).
 - Port Augusta Special School
 - School based preschool: 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, eg 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

- Establishment of new services and/or programs
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