



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: March 2023

Centre number: 4664

Centre name: Hawthorndene Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Louise Montesi
- Postal address: 1 Kindergarten Avenue, Hawthorndene
- Location address: As above
- DECD Partnership: Mitcham Hills
- Geographical location – 14km
- Telephone number: 08 82784161
- Mobile number: 0448 304 037
- Preschool website address: [preschools.sa.gov.au/hawthorndene--kindergarten](https://preschools.sa.gov.au/hawthorndene-kindergarten)
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.4664.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance
Average of 50 children with over 90% attendance
- Co-located/stand-alone: Stand alone. The kindergarten is situated diagonally across from the local school but has separate governance and leadership.
- Programs operating at the preschool: Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children • A transitional program of 3-4 sessions is held in terms 2 for mid year entry children and in term 4 for the children beginning the following year. wing year • An early entry program may be offered for eligible children where places are available. A Playgroup is conducted on Friday mornings and is

coordinated by a volunteer parent. Lunch/Full Day Program The children attend for a full long day which includes lunch. The session times are 8am until 3:30pm. Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays

□ Bilingual Support as required

□ Preschool Support as required

2. Key Centre Policies

Hawthorndene Kindergarten is a Department for Education of South Australia site

- ensuring the provision of pre-school education
- encouraging non-discrimination against or in favour of any person;
- promoting parent and community involvement.
- promoting understanding other cultures
- encouraging non-discrimination against or in favour of any person;
- learning and working together to care for the environment through play experiences outside—we are a Wipe Out Waste (WOW) site
- we believe in striving for excellence.
- our aim is to provide a high-quality education service which responds to the needs and interests of your children.
- kindergarten is a learning place where children come together in a stimulating, friendly, safe and attractive environment and are given guided learning opportunities.
- We all learn best when the important people in their lives establish good partnerships; parents with teachers, teachers with children, and children with children.

OUR VISION a caring community of learners

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework
- Core Values: Trust, respect, responsibility, commitment, care and support for others and self, tolerance and working as a team to improve the world around us. “for a small child there is no division between play and learning; between the things they do ‘just for fun’ and the things that are ‘educational’. The child learns while living and any part of living that is enjoyable is also play.”
Penelope Leach
- Specific curriculum approaches
- Strong focus on literacy, numeracy, thinking skills, communication, and social learning Learning in the outdoor environment is encouraged and in Terms 2 and 4 there is a special Outdoor Week where all learning occurs outside of the

kindergarten even when the weather is challenging---as they say in Scandinavia “there is no bad weather only a bad choice of clothing’ The kindergarten has an extensive garden where vegetables and fruits are grown and harvested for use at kindergarten and for the families attending. Each term Rebecca Mumford aka ‘Gaye the garden girl’ comes to the kindergarten to teach the children about seasonal vegetables and the creatures that promote or inhibit their growth. A focus on Science investigations is promoted in conjunction with National Science Week throughout term 3.

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects

Strong transition links with the JP staff local schools, through a Mitcham Hills Professional Learning Community. Visits are arranged for the preschool children to experience lessons with the specialist teachers at the local school.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile

1.0 Director 1:0 Teacher 1.0 Early Childhood Worker.

- Performance Management Program

A Performance Development Plan is developed with individual staff members at the commencement of each year with informal reviews throughout the year and a final evaluation towards the end of the year. The director is involved in the same process with the Education Director.

- Access to special support staff

The education department has a special support staff team which is assigned to the kindergarten and comprises:

- Special Educator
- Speech Pathologist
- Psychologist
- Behaviour Support Coach
- Social Worker

Where these services are warranted the Director works with families to ensure they receive the appropriate support. Where children have been given a speech program to be delivered at kindergarten our Early Childhood Worker facilitates the program with the child/ren.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

Hawthorndene Kindergarten is a well-maintained brick building erected in the ‘60s. The grounds of the centre are shady and leafy with soft fall areas and a large lawn with a performance deck. Around the garden are some solid play structures, a sandpit, a shelter and a large fenced area with raised garden beds and fruit trees. The grounds are fully fenced and well maintained. A verandah extends across the

front of the kindergarten and provides a wonderful link between the inside and the outside play areas.

- Capacity: 30
 - Centre Ownership: Mitcham Council
 - Access for children and staff with disabilities
- There is an access ramp for wheelchairs, but no disabled toilet facilities. The outdoor environment has some access for children in wheelchairs or with limited mobility.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
- The kindergarten team welcome parent's active involvement in the curriculum by sharing their culture in different ways (for example sharing stories/songs/cooking), reflection on their child's engagement in the learning experiences in their workbooks and and Communal Learning Journal, participating in the Governing Council, Playgroup (run by volunteers from our community) and part of excursions
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
- High percentage of children transfer to Hawthorndene Primary School along with the other Govt primary schools (Belair, Blackwood and Coromandel Valley)
- Shopping facilities: GD Wholesalers across the road from the kindy; selling a variety of fruit and vegetables and other small goods.

7. Further Comments

Hawthorndene Kindergarten is part of the Mitcham Hills Partnership which meets regularly to encourage links between the schools and preschools and to support improvements in the curriculum delivery of all teachers and staff in the partnership. There is a strong emphasis on providing all students with opportunity to develop their skills in literacy and numeracy and care for each other. This kindergarten has a strong community supporting the work of the staff team which has ensured that there have been many upgrades to the facilities and outdoor learning environment. There are always positive responses to requests for help. Our logo provides the key: two adult hands (representing the staff team and the parents) holding two children--- showing the close links between parents and staff as we build a wonderful learning environment for preschool children