

# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 05/22

**Centre number:** 6541

**Centre name:** Renmark Children's Centre

## 1. General information

- Preschool Director  
Gale Hansen
- Postal address  
204 Eighteenth Street, Renmark SA 5341
- Location address  
204 Eighteenth Street, Renmark SA 5341
- DECD Partnership  
Berri Portfolio
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)  
252km (Adelaide)
- Telephone number  
08 85866063
- Fax number  
08 85866159
- Preschool website address:  
[www.childrenscentres.sa.edu.au](http://www.childrenscentres.sa.edu.au)
- Preschool e-mail address  
[dl.6541\\_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.6541_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)

- **Preschool Enrolments (Term 3)**

2017	65
2018	60
2019	70
2020	59
2021	44
  
- **Co-located/stand-alone**  
Stand-alone Centre – integrated Preschool and Long Day Care (Child Care)
  
- **Programs operating at the centre**
  - ❖ Long Day Care Hours: 7.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday
  
  - ❖ Sessional Preschool for eligible children  
9 sessions offered per week. 15 hours access for eligible children. Full day and half day combinations offered.
  
  - ❖ Occasional Care - available through Child Care program (program unfunded)
  
  - ❖ Lunch/Full Day Program  
Kindy lunch care for children attending full day preschool session. Cost charged through Child Care program on site.
  
  - ❖ Bilingual Support  
As required: e.g. Turkish, Punjabi, Vietnamese.
  
  - ❖ Preschool Support  
Provided for children with special needs e.g. speech and language.
  
  - ❖ Playgroup - community playgroup held Friday 1.30-3.00pm (during school term time)

## 2. Key Centre Policies

### Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

Vision: We provide high quality care and education to children and their families from a diverse multicultural, rural community in a vibrant, responsive, integrated early childhood centre.

Our Philosophy: Renmark Children's Centre is an integrated services site that is committed to the wellbeing, health, care and education of all children, families, staff and members of our community.

We value and promote a sense of ownership through collaboration and participation which maximises positive learning outcomes for all.

We believe:

- That each child is individual, unique and important, and has the right to develop to their full potential
- That the staff are one of the centre's most valuable resources
- That parents and families are the child's first educators
- That the centre is a valuable community resource

Learning Priorities:

- Literacy – oral language, vocabulary
- Numeracy
- Wellbeing

## 3. Curriculum

- Framework used:  
Early Years Learning Framework: - Belonging, Being Becoming.
- Core Values:  
Respect      Partnerships      Persistence      Accountability
- Specific curriculum approaches:  
The Centre works in partnership with families and the community to provide a program that is responsive to the education and care needs of children.

Further principles underlining the philosophy of the Centre are:

- Valuing learning through play
  - Accountability through reflecting, evaluating and reviewing
  - An inclusive program
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects:  
Collaborative transition programs to local primary schools.

## **4. Centre Based Staff**

- Staff Profile  
Preschool: Director (1.0), Preschool Teachers (1.4), ECW (0.5).  
Additional Preschool staff as required.  
Child Care: Children's Services Employees (permanent and casual),  
Administration Officers and Cook.
- Performance Development Program  
Performance Development meetings held regularly with Director.
- Access to special support staff  
Local Education Team: Special Educator, Psychologist, Speech Pathologist.
- Other  
Community Development Coordinator (DHS)  
Family Practitioner (DHS)  
Allied Health – Occupational Therapist

## **5. Centre Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds  
Two older brick buildings recently renovated and joined by a modern, spacious administration area, providing a safe, common entrance and exit for all clients. Our outdoor areas were redeveloped in 2017/2018 as part of the Preschool Outdoor Learning Area program (POLA) and incorporate nature play principles in design and use. All elements of the playspaces are representational of living by the river such as local fish and birds, billabong, creek beds, boat, fruit trees, vegetable gardens, animal enclosure, watercourses, sand, fallen tree and rock climbing structures, mud kitchens.
- Private off street car parking available for staff and clients.

- Capacity (per session)  
Whole site license 89 children in total.  
Preschool 39 children  
Child Care 50 children (under 2's 15 children)
- Centre Ownership  
Buildings owned by the Department for Education.  
Grounds maintained by Governing Council / Management Committee.  
Contract Cleaner and Contract Gardener.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities  
Access toilet in foyer, access toilet and shower in preschool area.  
Wheelchair access available to all areas of the Centre.
- Other  
Parenting Room with kitchen area, centrally located in Centre.  
Book Borrowing available for community use.

## **6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)**

- General characteristics  
Renmark is the largest of the Riverland towns and has a strong service, light industrial and horticultural base. Renmark is situated close to Berri, Barmera and Loxton.  
Many migrant, ethnic and refugee families of diverse cultural backgrounds have settled in the area.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool  
Active Governing Council / Management Committee. Parental support is strong. Local community support is always generous.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool  
Children from the Centre attend Renmark Primary School (across the road), Renmark West Primary School, Renmark North Primary School or St Joseph's School.
- Other local care and educational facilities  
Renmark High School and Renmark Primary School all in close vicinity to Renmark Children's Centre. Other local schools include; Renmark West Primary School, Renmark North Primary School and St Joseph's School.  
OSHC for school age children operates from Renmark Primary School.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities  
Renmark has a comprehensive shopping precinct – Main Street and Renmark plaza. Local businesses include; Woolworths, Foodland, BIG W and a number of variety stores.

- **Other local facilities**  
Renmark & Paringa District Hospital, Renmark Medical Clinic, Recreation Centre with indoor heated pool, outdoor local swimming centre, numerous sporting opportunities and facilities.
- **Availability of staff housing**  
Government Employee Housing is available along with homes/properties to rent or purchase.
- **Accessibility**  
Renmark is accessible by bus from Adelaide and Mildura. Air travel available from Adelaide or Mildura.
- **Local Government**  
Renmark Paringa Council.

## **7. Further Comments**

- **Partnership arrangements with other groups**  
Children's Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting support children and families to achieve the best possible learning, health and wellbeing outcomes in a universal setting with targeted responses for families who may require additional support.

The official opening of the Renmark Children's Centre for Early Childhood Development and Parenting was in 2008.

The Renmark Children's Centre firmly holds sustainability as a cornerstone of our ethos and considers that we must be a role model within our community. We take positive action to reduce waste, recycle and reuse materials where possible. The newest part of our building is designed to let in natural light and minimise the interface between indoors and outdoors.