



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 12/9/2020

Centre number: 4608

Centre name: Blackwood Kindergarten

1. General information

- Director: Maddy Stewardson
- 11 Brigalow Ave. Blackwood 5051
- Mitcham Hills Partnership
- Geographical location – road distance from GPO (13km using Fullarton Rd)
- Telephone number 82783596
- Fax number 82787263
- Preschool website address: www.blackwoodkgn.sa.edu.au
- Email address: dl.4608.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

❖ Enrolment/Attendance

❖ 2020	44 enrolments	
2019	49 enrolments	Av attendance 90%
2018	45 enrolments	Av attendance 91%
2017	50 enrolments	Av attendance 90%
2016	50 enrolments	Av attendance 88%
2015	44 enrolments	Av attendance 89%
2014	43 enrolments	Av attendance 89% Same First day began
2013	48 enrolments	Av attendance 88%
2012	44 enrolments	Av attendance 88%
2011	55 Av enrolments	Av Attendance 90%

- ❖ Stand-alone centre
- ❖ Programs operating at the preschool
- Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children 15 hours per week
- ❖ Associated Programs
 - Saturday Morning Playgroup. 9am to 10.30am during term time.
 - Lunch/Full Day Program 2.5 days per week per group
 - Bilingual Support
 - Preschool Support
 - Nature Kindy (6 sessions are held in Belair National Park Terms 2 & 3)
 - Kindergarten orientation and transition visits term 4
 - Early entry for Aboriginal, GOM and ESL children
 - Community health involvement eg termly CYHS checkups, Lift the Lip, Opal, Flinders Physio students etc.
 - Emergency occasional care

2. Key Centre Policies

Our Vision... “We are a supportive and inclusive community kindergarten inspiring an enthusiasm for lifelong learning. We encourage children to approach new challenges with confidence and creativity. We love our Natural Environment and understand the responsibility that we all share by living within it. We will observe what it does and learn from it, we will care for it and give back to it when we can. We will play with it and we will take only what we truly need from it.”

Our mission... “To support all our families in the education of their children, while maintaining a strong sense of community and a connection to our local natural environment

Statement of Purpose

“We learn something new every day” (child voice)

We believe our children are capable learners. We encourage children to have a voice in what happens at kindy and to ask questions. As educators and parents we support and guide learning by following up children’s interests and enquiry, embedding literacy and numeracy into our play based curriculum. We nurture the strengths and interests of individual children

“I practice and I get better”

We believe in challenging children to extend their learning, to learn from each other and to develop Executive Functions such as persistence, problem solving, self -regulation and delayed gratification. We believe we are all learners together.

“We can swing really high.” “You can go fast down the slide”

We believe in the importance of encouraging confidence and supporting healthy physical development. We believe in assessing the benefits as well as the risks in any endeavour.

- “The best thing about kindy is playing with friends”

We believe that kindy should be a caring, supportive, friendly and comfortable environment for everyone. We expect staff and families to support the learning of all children and to have a say in our kindergarten.

- “We make a good team”

We encourage everyone to share their knowledge, to listen, play, and work cooperatively and collaboratively.

- “I like going on adventures”

We get messy, we have fun, and we get excited about our discoveries. We help children to explore the world and their place in it. We nurture a sense of identity and belonging within and beyond the family, with peers and within our community. We contribute to our world by learning about other cultures, sharing our own culture, and we believe we can make a difference by helping others less fortunate.

- “We look after things” “We don’t hurt” “We don’t waste water” “We put worms in the vege patch”

We encourage children to develop a sense of respect and responsibility for each other and their environment. We follow and teach sustainable practices and value our natural play spaces, our hills environment and all the creatures in it.

3. Curriculum

❖ Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework

❖ Core Values

Relationships, Confidence, Resilience, Diversity, Play, Enjoyment of learning and Being explorers of the world

❖ Specific curriculum approaches

- Emergent curriculum based on children’s interests and questions. Documented in Floor Books
- Social-constructivist theory
- Informed by Neuroscience research into learning and supporting Growth Mindset

- Inquiry and project work

4. Centre Based Staff

❖ Staff Profile

- Director 1.0 PSD Band A1
- Teacher 1.0 Permanent, Level 9
- Universal Access Teacher 0.3
- ECW1 0.5 – extra time may be funded by site as required.
- Site funded Playgroup Coordinator ECW 3 hrs per week.
- Access to DfE Special Education support staff as required.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds: Building was community built in 1958. Concrete Besser block construction, straw ceilings, large windows and louvres. One large main play room incorporating kitchen and storage, Small play room, small office, small store room, one bathroom with one adult toilet and 2 children's toilets. Flat roof verandah/ play area at entrance. Bottled gas heater, Evaporative Air conditioners. Large natural grounds on sloping block with large gum trees. Large and small shed. Backs onto Adelaide-Belair railway line.

❖ Capacity

30 per session

❖ Centre Ownership:

Mitcham Council leases DfE the building and Western side of block. DfE owns Eastern side of block

❖ Access for children and staff with disabilities

Easy access from front gate to door. Some ramps, paved paths and steps, but it is a large, sloping hills garden. No handicapped adult toilet or change facilities. Two steps down into meeting room. No car parking on site or directly in front of centre. (T- Junction fronts centre). Emergency vehicle access could be temporarily used for drop off/ pick up by negotiation.

6. Local Community

- ❖ General characteristics: Attending centre...Predominantly Australian born middle income socioeconomic status with high number of tertiary educated parents. Mostly 2 parent families, majority with one or both parents having full/part time employment. Many children attend a child care centre, additional Montessori

program or have grandparent carers. Some migrant families, including Flinders University employees or students, and business entrepreneurs. Small percentage of home rental. Some hobby farms.

- ❖ Parent and community involvement in the preschool
 - Active Governing Council, Volunteers for Nature Kindy, good family engagement with curriculum and social events, Fund-raising. Nearly 50% parents have DCSI screenings and 25% Ran Training as volunteers. High wider community support for fundraising. Engagement with Lions, Rotary, local businesses. Good level of involvement with local schools eg Work experience. Support for Flinders Uni student pracs (eg. Early Childhood, Physiotherapy courses)

- ❖ Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:
 - Blackwood Primary School and Coromandel Valley Primary School. (Limited enrolments to Belair, Upper Sturt, Hawthorndene, Eden Hills, Bellevue Heights, St Peter's Lutheran and St John's Grammar and other schools)

- ❖ Other local care and educational facilities
 - 1 Community Child Care Centre, 2 Private Child Care Centres within a kilometre. Blackwood Kindergym, various Playgroups.

- ❖ Commercial and shopping facilities are numerous and typically suburban

- ❖ Other local facilities include medical and dental clinics, Ovals and sports facilities, Belair National Park, Wittunga Botanical garden,
- ❖ Accessible by Public bus and train several blocks distance away. Bus on Shepherds Hill Rd. Train line to Adelaide. Coromandel Station is closest to the kindergarten.
 - 2 main roads access the suburb N/S and E/W.

- ❖ Local Government: Mitcham Council

7. Further Comments

Blackwood Kindergarten has an R2 Bushfire rating from DfE. There is a yearly updated Bushfire Action Plan and a designated Last Resort Refuge.