



# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 24/07/2023

**Centre number:** 6663

**Centre name:** Cowell Early Childhood Centre

## 1. General information

- Preschool Director: Jacqui Finnis (Acting: Michelle Ottens)
- Postal address: PO Box 68, Cowell SA, 5602
- Location address: 42 Story Road, Cowell SA, 5602
- DECD Partnership: Central Eyre 2
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km) 488km
- Telephone number: 86292243
- Fax number: 86292099
- Preschool website address: [www.cowellecc.sa.edu.au](http://www.cowellecc.sa.edu.au)
- Preschool email address: [dl.6663.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.6663.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Enrolment/Attendance

2022	14	average 75.45%
2021	10	average 94.25%
2020	17	average 89.6%
2019	10	average 96.2%
2018	18	average 92.1%

- Co-located/stand-alone  
We are a stand alone Centre, but are located next door to Cowell Area School
- Programs operating at the Centre

⌘ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children  
We offer an average of 5 sessions per week.

Weeks 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10

Tuesday & Thursday 8:40am-3:20pm

Weeks 3, 6, 9

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:40am-3:20pm

Rural Care

We have a two-worker Rural Care Program that is offered 5 days a week from 8:00 – 6:00pm

⌘ Transition to Preschool

In the term before the child is due to begin Preschool the child is able to attend 4 sessions of Kindy from a morning session to a full day (program depends on centre numbers)

⌘ Lunch/Full Day Program

The Preschool children have lunch at Kindy. It is running as a full day program.

⌘ Preschool Support

Preschool support is negotiated with the Special Educator on a needs bases.

## 2. Key Centre Policies

We believe that each child and family is unique. We recognise the need for children to develop understanding and respect for themselves and others. We recognise that

parents are the child's first teachers and that children learn best when parents are involved in their educational program. The primary bridge between home and school is the involvement of family and community. We acknowledge the critical importance of children, parents/carers and staff as partners in a learning community that promotes the wellbeing, education and development of all children. We believe that attachment, interaction and wellbeing are fundamental elements in providing high quality care.

We believe that the role of adults is to provide a safe, stimulating and responsive environment where positive reinforcement and encouragement make learning rewarding and enjoyable. We acknowledge, appreciate and incorporate the culture and diversity of all people within our community. We recognise and value the knowledge and commitment of our staff team and fully support their continuing professional development.

In accordance with our philosophy we strive to:

- Create a happy, warm and welcoming atmosphere.
- Promote a sense of belonging for all children and families.
- Ensure the Centre is a safe and clean environment at all times.
- Support Children's learning in a fun and nurturing environment.

### **3. Curriculum**

- Framework used:

The Curriculum is based on the Department of Children and Education Development's "Belonging, Becoming and Being" Early Years Learning Framework 2.0 (EYLF) which provides us with a programming framework on which we base our planning.

Preschool aged children are learning through all the interactions, experiences and routines that are part of their day. There are 5 main outcomes which are:-

1. Children have a strong sense of identity
2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world
3. Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
4. Children are confident and involved learners
5. Children are effective communicators

Our Curriculum also includes the Literacy and Numeracy Indicators

Literacy

1. I use language to connect with my world
2. I understand the language of my world
3. I represent my world symbolically

4. I engage with texts and make meaning

#### Numeracy

1. I explore and understand my place and space in the world
2. I quantify my world
3. I analyse, read and organise the data in my world
4. I measure and compare my world

- Core Values

The Curriculum in our centre is CHILD centred. Activities that are provided for the children are based around what each child can do, and what each child is interested in as well as focused on extending the skills they have.

So that we can be sure of “where each child is at” we seek information from you, the Parent/Caregiver, and we regularly observe each child, recording our observations.

- Specific curriculum approaches

The Curriculum in our centre is **PLAY** oriented. Structured, adult directed activities are minimal, and that the children spend most of each session free to choose the activities they wish to do.

This does not mean that children are never “taught” anything, but that teaching is done in an incidental way when ready to expand their interest further.

## 5. Centre Based Staff

#### Staff Profile

Director: 0.8 (0.6 teaching, 0.2 Admin)

Preschool ECW1: 0.6

Rural Care ECW 2 – 27hours p/w x 3 (Diploma qualified)

Rural Care ECW 1 – 27hours p/w

#### Performance Management Program

The Director is line managed by the Eyre Partnership’s Educational Director Tammy Williams. The Staff are required to have a personal performance plan which is managed by the Director. Staff are required to attend regular trainings through the year.

### Access to special support staff

The Centre has access to a Preschool Support Consultants and the Behaviour Management Officer who consult when needed. Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapists and the Aboriginal Education Project Officers also visit and support staff and students when requested.

## **5. Centre Facilities**

- Buildings and grounds

The indoor building is approximately 209m<sup>2</sup> and has an undercover decking of 83m<sup>2</sup>. The building was opened in 2004, after being moved from another DECD site. The indoor environment consists of a large open area, a kitchen area with a store room, Director's office, staffroom, staff toilet, sleeping room, a storage room, a children's bathroom with two toilets and a laundry/changing area.

The outdoor environment has a storage shed with a rain water tank connected, an under cover sandpit, a swing set, play boat, cubby house, trampoline, a bike track, a lawned area and a gardening area.

- Capacity (per session) : 30
- Centre Ownership: The Centre and land is owned by DECD
- Access for Children and staff with disabilities: The centre has access ramps, rails in the toilets and wide entry points.

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

- General characteristics:

Cowell is a small district in Eastern Eyre Peninsula. The community is made up of agricultural farmers, aquacultural farmers (oyster) and a mining sector (Iron Duke). English is the main language spoken at home.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool  
We have a Governing Council which comprises of a Chairperson, Secretary and a Tresurer. The preschool has had tremendous parental and community support who have been very dedicated to fundraising for the Centre.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool  
100% of our enrolments go to Cowell Area School.
- Other local care and educational facilities/  
Playgroup (operates every second Friday alternate to Preschool)
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities  
Cowell has a supermarket, chemist, hairdresses, post office, deli, bakery, butcher, hardware, 2 hotels, BankSA and a road house. Nearby centres include Cleve (42kms) and Whyalla (100kms)
- Other local facilities  
Cowell has a Doctor practising in Cowell and an 18 bed Hospital. There are good sporting facilities in Cowell including: netball courts, tennis courts, golf course, football oval, cricket pitch, table tennis and bowls. A swimming pool is located the school grounds. Being on the water boating, fishing, swimming and snorkelling are amound things to do. There are a number of churches in town: Lutheran, Catholic, Uniting, Anglican and the Cowell Family Worship Centre.
- Availability of staff housing  
There is limisted staff housing in Cowell. It can be difficult to find housing due to the mining industry.
- Accessibility  
Bus run to Adelaide on a daily basis (approx. \$93 adult, \$47 child). Flights to Adelaide run from both Port Lincoln and Whyalla all thorough the day (flights start at \$116). The local roads to major towns are sealed, some of the smaller areas have unsealed roads.
- Local Government  
Is the District Council of Franklin Harbour (ph: 86292019)

## 7. Further Comments