



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: June 2022

Centre number: 6613

Centre name: Crystal Brook Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director
Mrs Karena Wilson
- Postal address
Mais Terrace, Crystal Brook, SA, 5523
- Location address
Mais Terrace, Crystal Brook, SA, 5523
- DfE Partnership
Upper Mid North Partnership (Pirie Portfolio)
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
200 kilometres from Adelaide
- Telephone number
86362411
- Fax number
86362002
- Preschool website address:
www.crystalkgn.sa.edu.au

- Preschool e-mail address
cbkindyinfo.info837@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance
Enrolments of four year olds each year range from 23-28 children on average. 3 year olds may enrol if they are children in care, or identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. The centre does not have any attendance issues other than for sickness or family holidays during term-time.
- Co-located/stand-alone
Stand-alone preschool
- Programs operating at the preschool

Visits to Bowman Park 'Bush Kindy' - a beautiful natural space beyond the kindy, in terms two and three. Nature pedagogy gives children an opportunity to learn in and with the natural world.

Fortnightly visits to the Southern Flinders Health, Roseview Aged Care Facility, Crystal Brook Campus to visit the elderly residents.

Fortnightly music with a valued volunteer who plays the piano for the children to sing and dance to.

An important outcome we want of our program is that the children will feel safe at all times. To achieve this outcome we have a site behaviour code that is an integral part of our program.

- Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
Kindy days are Monday and Tuesday from 8.45am-3.15pm during terms 1-4, and also includes fortnightly Wednesdays from 8.45-3.15pm during terms 2 and 3.
- Occasional Care
Funded Occasional Care runs on Wednesday and Thursday from 8.45-11.45am
- Associated Programs
Transition programs are offered to children prior to starting their preschool year, run on a different day to regular kindergarten days.
Early entry priority is given to children with additional needs in term four for one full day.
Playgroup runs on a Friday from 9.00-11.00am. An ECW runs Supported Playgroup and is employed for 3 hours per Friday.
CaFHS four year old health checks are undertaken at a CaFHS clinic which is located at the Kindergarten, usually two Fridays per month.
- Preschool Support
Provided to children for speech and language, or to support behaviour within the setting. Preschool support is provided both from within the staff team and through specialist staff and Early Intervention grants provided by DfE.

Other

Preschool children can travel on the bus if there are seats available. The bus drops off and picks up from the front of our kindergarten. An educator will meet the bus every morning and will help your child to get on it in the afternoon.

2. Key Centre Policies

Crystal Brook Kindergarten provides a service which focuses on quality learning outcomes for all children, monitoring the performance of targeted groups of children and information is gathered and critically analysed to better inform practices and priorities (Quality Improvement Plan) All educators are committed to critical reflection for continuous improvement and public accountability and the processes are made explicit for monitoring, reviewing and reporting children's progress. The core business and current service priorities are made public and achievements and emerging issues for further improvement publically reported. Feedback is initiated, gathered and acted upon. Processes we use to ensure quality assurance within our service include our Statement of Philosophy, Quality Improvement Plan and Annual Report, and efficient information management. A strong focus is on children's learning, relationships with families, community engagement and environmental sustainability.

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

Please visit our website to read our Quality Improvement Plan and current statement of philosophy www.crystalkgn.sa.edu.au

3. Curriculum

"In the early childhood setting curriculum means 'all the interactions, experiences, activities, routines and events, planned and unplanned, that occur in an environment designed to foster children's learning and development'." (Adapted from Te Whariki, cited in Belonging, Being, Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia)

- Framework used: Belonging, Being, Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia.

- Children with additional needs

The centre supports children with additional needs using both funding from DECD and the site budget. Using these funds we employ a Preschool Support Worker to provide 1:1 support for these children.

- Assessment procedures and reporting

The educators assess children's learning in a wide variety of ways. Educator reflections are reviewed and assessed at planning meetings, with strategies put in place as necessary. The educators frequently discuss children's wellbeing and engagement in the learning program and reflect on the suitability of what we provide and how we deliver it. The educators collect information on the children and collate much of this in children's Learning Journals in a chronological order, to demonstrate

distance travelled and provide children and their families with a record of the child's time at kindergarten.

Data includes: a parent questionnaire given on enrolment; notes on discussions with parents; TROLLPA, observations; speech and language screenings; children's work; photographs; learning stories.

Learning journals are accessed regularly by children and their families throughout the year. Children's data / information is collected and used to plan a curriculum to meet the children's individual needs and interests. Individual learning plans are established and appropriate activities are planned by staff in a range of curriculum areas. A statement of learning is sent home mid year and at the end of the year. This includes all the relevant information on the child for the parents and foundation teacher. Parents have the opportunity to provide their own comments before returning, and kindy then sends the completed reports to the school which the child is attending.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
Director : Permanent 0.5 (possibility to increase with UA)
Teacher : Permanent 0.5 (possibility to increase with UA)
ECW : Contract 0.5
ECW2 : Occasional Care
ECW1: Occasional Care

- Performance Management Program

Each staff member has a scheduled performance planning meeting with the director and at least one further meeting later in the year. Meetings are documented and goals are linked to the Quality Improvement Plan as well as personal career goals.

- Access to special support staff

The kindergarten has access to the team of specialist staff from the Education Office in Port Pirie, including speech pathologists, psychologists, social workers, behaviour support coaches and the special education consultant.

There are also many local private speech pathologists and specialist services (Thrive, GP Plus) in Port Pirie.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

Crystal Brook Kindergarten is a stand-alone centre co located to Crystal Brook Primary School. "Stand-alone" refers to the Kindergarten being managed by its own director and Governing Council, rather than by the school principal and their Governing Council. The kindergarten moved to its current site in the year 2000. The outdoor learning environment has been landscaped by a dedicated group of educators, parents and community members with guidance from nature consultancy

professionals. The OLE has become a highly valued resource that aligns with the centre's Statement of Philosophy and Quality Improvement Plan priorities.

- Capacity (per session)

The building has a capacity for 50 children at a time.

- Centre Ownership

The centre is owned by DECD

- Access for children and staff with disabilities

There is access for people with disabilities.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics:

Crystal Brook is a rural service town, with SA Water, Department of Transport and Infrastructure, a Health Service and Aged Care facility all operating in the town.

Port Pirie is only a short trip of 25 minutes; this city also has employment opportunities available.

There is a Historical Society, Crystal Brook Show Society, RSL club, APEX club and Lions Club, National Trust branch in the town.

The historic site of Bowman Park is a short drive or walk from the town which has a small grassed area, camping and picnic sites.

The town is RV friendly and has a Caravan and camping facility available in the picturesque Crystal Brook Creek area.

The town is situated on the end of the Flinders Ranges so is a great starting point to explore this area.

Students come mainly from the township of Crystal Brook which is a rural service community with hospital and aged care facilities.

Many families work in Port Pirie and choose to reside in Crystal Brook.

A small percentage of families come from farming families and from surrounding areas, including Narridy, Merriton, Redhill and Milcowie.

Parent and community involvement in the preschool

The kindergarten has a high involvement of parents, families and community involvement in the preschool. This is evident in the number of regular volunteers who support the kindy through playing the piano, reading to children, gardening and assisting around the kindy. Families contribute with daily, weekly and end of term tasks such as washing and cleaning, and helping to organise and support dedicated fundraising activities and events. Community involvement is very high with visits to Bowman Park for Bush Kindy and fortnightly visits to Southern Flinders Health, Roseview Aged Care, Crystal Brook Campus.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
Crystal Brook Primary School
- Other local care and educational facilities,
Happy Haven - Out of School Hours Care operates from Crystal Brook Primary School gymnasium
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
IGA supermarket, Hardware store, Newsagency, Chemist, Post Office, Hotels, Hairdressers, Take away food, Bakery. O'Dea Electrical and Pacific Hydro Wind Farms.
- Other local facilities
Police station. Southern Flinders Health, Crystal Brook Campus and Doctor's Surgery. Strong sporting and recreational representation of clubs within the town, including Football, Netball, Tennis, Cricket, Basketball, Swimming, Hockey, Fitness Centre, Lawn Bowls, Motorcycle Club, Golf Club and Croquet to name a few.
- Availability of staff housing
Government Employee Housing is available, homes available to purchase however limited homes to rent. Real Estate business operates within the town.
- Accessibility
Stateliner Buses have a service which drops off and picks up from Perry's Fuel Station on Eyre Road.
- Local Government
Port Pirie Regional Council

7. Further Comments