



# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 20/04/2019

**Centre number:** 2622

**Centre name:** Elsie Ey Children's Centre for Early Childhood Development and Parenting

## 1. General information

- Preschool Director: Michelle Cunningham
- Postal address: Kingfisher Drive, Hewett, South Australia, 5118
- Location address: Kingfisher Drive, Hewett SA (on the same campus as Hewett Primary School)
- DfE Partnership: Greater Gawler
- Geographical location – Road distance from Adelaide GPO is 40 km.
- Telephone number: (08) 8522 1900
- Fax number: (08) 8523 4036
- Preschool website address: [www.elsieeycc.sa.edu.au](http://www.elsieeycc.sa.edu.au)
- Preschool e-mail address: [dl.2622.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.2622.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Enrolment/Attendance

Elsie Ey Children's Centre continues to record high levels of enrolment each year. Between 2016 and 2018 the lowest recorded enrolment was 97 children and the highest was 115. The site cap is 110 children with a maximum of 60 on any one day. Demand for enrolments that extend past this cap require additional applications to the Department for Education (as was the case in 2017 for 115 children).

Elsie Ey Children's Centre records high levels of attendance each year, with the parenting community demonstrating a high engagement and commitment to their children's learning. Attendance rates are above the state average, remaining steady each year, with very little variation. During 2016 to 2018 the highest recorded average annual attendance was 92.8%, and the lowest recorded attendance was 88%. During 2016-2018, there were only 3 out of the total 20 terms when term attendance rates dropped below 90%.

*(Data Source: SPERS; 2016-2018)*

- Co-located/stand-alone  
Elsie Ey Children's Centre for Early Education and Parenting is located on the grounds of Hewett Primary School and in close walking proximity to Stepping Stones Childcare Centre.
- Programs operating at the preschool
  - ⌘ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
  - ⌘ Inclusive Preschool Programme (IPP)
  - ⌘ Lunch/Full Day Program
  - ⌘ Bilingual Support: On a need basis
  - ⌘ Preschool Support: As requested
  - ⌘ Early Intervention, group and parenting programmes
  - ⌘ Targeted Playgroups
  - ⌘ CAFHS Preschool Developmental Checks

## 2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

### PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

We believe that healthy partnerships build trust, respect and value diversity, with mindfully planned environments and interactions that best support children's learning within child directed, play based experiences.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Together we will endeavour to nurture and respect all children by providing a safe, supportive and challenging learning environment that values individuality. We embrace diversity and support the vital role of families in a child's life journey; together we will seek to strengthen partnerships and build relationships.

### Right Bite Food and Nutrition Policy

Elsie Ey Children's Centre promotes safe, healthy eating habits in line with the Rite Bite healthy food and drink supply strategy for South Australian Schools and Preschools and relates to the DfE wellbeing strategy. Children learn valuable lifelong habits when they are exposed to eating and cooking experiences within the preschool environment and can promote their curiosity and knowledge of food, nutrition and the environment.

### Hot Weather Policy

The aims of the Elsie Ey Children's Centre for Early Childhood Development and Parenting 'Hot Weather Policy' are to promote amongst children, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes towards environmental conditions.
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of heat stress and heat related health conditions.
- Personal responsibility for, and decision making about, own regulation of exposure in hot weather.
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in our centre to reduce the level of sun exposure.

### Managing Illness Policy

Elsie Ey Children's Centre is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy work environment for its staff, children and visitors. Whilst providing services for children and adults, there will be times when illness occurs. Providing guidelines that incorporate policies and recommendations supports families and staff to understand their roles, responsibilities and expectations.

This policy will be used in conjunction with Health, DECD and NQF regulations and guidelines.

### Behaviour Guidance Code

Documented guidelines regarding behaviour and guidance for children help ensure that children, families and staff have a safe environment, and

consistency and clarity around acceptable behaviour and guidance measures that will be implemented.

#### Grievance Policy: Raising and Resolving Concerns

Good relationships between home and preschool give our children a better chance of success. This policy provides information about avenues of communication, which strengthens the partnership between parents and the preschool. It acknowledges the importance of the relationship between caregivers / parents and the teachers and other staff.

### **3. Curriculum**

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework.
- Indicators of Preschool Numeracy and Literacy
- Core Values: Relationships, Respect, Honesty, Integrity and Humour.
- Specific curriculum approaches: Playbased emergent curriculum where children are valued as competent, capable individuals who influence decisions that affect them within the preschool setting.

## 4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile:

Number of staff	Role	Full Time Equivalent
1	Director of Education and Care	1.0
1	Early Childhood Teacher	1.0
5	Early Childhood Teachers	0.5
2	Early Childhood Educator	1.0
5	Early Childhood Educator	0.5
3	Early Childhood Educators	0.3
1	Finance/Administration Office	0.9
1	Community Development Coordinator	1.0
1	Occupational Therapist	0.3 (currently vacant)
1	Speech Pathologist	0.3
1	Family Practitioner	0.5

All Early Childhood Teachers have at least a 4 year Early Childhood Education university qualification or a recognised equivalent.

All Early Childhood Educators have at least a certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care, however, most educators have a Diploma in Early Childhood.

Early Childhood Educators with contracts less than 0.5 are support staff site funded from the new IESP budget

- Performance Management Program

All staff are expected to develop their own Professional Development Plan (PDP) which aligns with site priorities, quality improvement plan and individual areas of strength and development. Strategies are clearly documented to support desired outcomes. Staff meet with the Director twice a year to track and monitor progress against PDP. Informal conversation amongst colleagues and Director provide ongoing support in addressing PDP and challenges, questions or concerns as they arise.

Any concerns regarding performance are addressed through appropriate DfE performance development procedures.

- Access to special support staff

DfE additional support services can provide access to Behaviour Coach, Special Educators, Speech Pathologist, Psychologist – Educational Services, Social Worker, Child and Student Wellbeing Officer, Aboriginal Liaison Officer.

CAFHS nurse visits twice a term to conduct 4 year old health checks

Occupational Therapist can provide group sessions, information and referral pathways for families and community members with children 0-8 years

Speech Pathologist can provide group sessions, information and referral pathways for families and community members with children 0-8 years

Community Development Coordinator can connect families and community members with appropriate referrals and seek services to support identified service gaps.

## **5. Centre Facilities**

- **Buildings and grounds:**  
Elsie Ey Kindergarten was relocated from Murray Street Gawler to the current location in 2003. The buildings and grounds were developed and built for the preschool in 2003. The indoor space available for children's programs is referred to as the large play space. This space incorporates a flexible common area which can be closed off into two sections. Adjoining the common space is a smaller play space. This area is largely used as a home base for the children enrolled in the Inclusive Preschool Program (complex and significant additional needs). All Spaces are, however, accessible to all children based on need. The outdoor environment has been modified several times throughout the 14 years. The outdoor learning environment includes a large under cover sandpit and multiple spaces for a variety of play experiences. Plans are being developed to support a large restoration/improvement of the outdoor learning environment in 2019.
- **Capacity (per session):**  
The preschool capacity is 60 children per session.
- **Centre Ownership:**  
DfE owns the centre
- **Access for children and staff with disabilities:**  
Ground floor access at all entry/exit points.  
Disability access for both adult and child sized toilets.  
Hydrolic change table facilities for children who require continence support and care.  
Ramp outside to support access throughout yard.  
Modification required to allow wheel chair access to outdoor platform area.
- **Other**

## 6. Local Community

- General characteristics:

The community is generally described as mono-culture with English the common language spoken at home. The majority of families consist of parents and children born in Australia. Predominately families identify with anglo-saxon background.

The community provides a variety of further education and employment opportunities with a local university campus in Roseworthy and TAFE campus in Gawler. Employment opportunities exist in agriculture, wineries, limited manufacturing (with the closure of Holdens), defence and support contract for defence operations, along with retail and community services.

The suburb of Hewett is approximately 15 years old with building slowing in the last 5 years. That being said, new developments continue to emerge. 2019 will see the start of a new housing area being constructed between Hewett and Roseworthy along the Horrocks Highway. 12,00 new residents are forecasted in this area. No additional preschool facilities have been announced for this development and the land falls within the Elsie Ey Children's Centre catchment zone.

The Hewett Centre located adjacent to the Hewett Primary School offer a variety of programmes for community involvement. Elsie Ey Children's Centre use the facilities to run a variety of playgroups and programmes for parents and their children ages 0-5 years.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool:

We encourage family and community involvement within the centre to support partnerships and collaboration.

Families are invited to support the centre through: Governing council, fundraising, sharing knowledge skills and expertise, volunteering to support experiences such as cooking, excursions etc.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool

Hewett Primary School

Roseworthy Primary School

Gawler Primary School

Gawler East Primary School

Sandy Creek Primary School

- Other local care and educational facilities:

Stepping Stone Child Care Hewett (collaboration to support families and their needs)

Happy Haven OSHC Hewett Primary School

Variety of family day care providers

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:  
Hewett Shopping Complex  
Gawler Main Street
- Other local facilities:  
Gawler Hospital  
Several medical centres in Gawler Township  
Several sporting clubs within the surrounding area
- Availability of staff housing:  
Houses are available to purchase or rent in around local and surrounding areas.  
There is no government employee housing available.
- Accessibility:  
Hewett is approximately 40km from Adeladie CBD and is accessible via car bus and train.
- Local Government  
Light Regional Council

## 7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups  
Close collaboration with DfE preschools within the Greater Gawler Partnership, focused on professional development opportunities and peer collaboration across sites.  
Collaboration with Stepping Stone Child Care Hewett to support families with before and after preschool care.  
Collaborative relationship with Northern Domestic Violence Services to support families in individual ways through preschool and community programs as appropriate.  
Networking and collaboration with local and distant early childhood intervention specialist services.  
Indigenous Health Unit at the Gawler Health Service  
Department of Child Protection (Gawler and Elizabeth)