



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 14/02/2019

Centre number: 6514

Centre name: Gladigau Park Kindergarten

1. General information

Preschool Director:

The Director is employed in a 1.0 position

Postal address:

3 Gladigau Road,
Mount Gambier SA 5290

Location address:

3 Gladigau Road, Mount Gambier SA 5290
DECD Partnership

- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
Approx. 450km from Adelaide and Melbourne
- Telephone number: 08 87 259 689
- Fax number: 08 87 239 792

Preschool website address:

www.gladigaukgn.sa.edu.au

- Preschool e-mail address:

dl.6514.info@schools.sa.edu.au

- **Enrolment/Attendance:**
Enrolments range from 40 to 50 children with a capacity of 30 children enrolled in a session. At times of high enrolments, the Governing Council has developed a priority of access policy to ensure families living closest to Gladigau Park Kindergarten are not disadvantaged.
- **Stand-alone:**
Gladigau Park Kindergarten is a stand alone facility on the North Western outskirts of Mount Gambier
- **Programs operating at the preschool**
 - ❖ **Pre Entry** offered in term 4 and integrated with preschool sessions
 - ⌘ **Sessional Kindergarten** for eligible children: Children are able to attend 2 full days one week and 3 full days in the following week., or 2 full days and a half day each week or if required and negotiated half day sessions.
 - ❖ **Occasional Care:** Families can access 1 Occasional Care session per week from 4 sessions offered. Children need to be between 2 and 4 years of age.
 - ❖ **Extended Care:** available for children with additional needs at the director's discretion as early entry or an extension of time at kindergarten.
 - ⌘ **Assisted Playgroup:** Friday mornings 9.30am – 11am. Our playgroup is run by our experienced Early Childhood Worker. Families are welcome to attend playgroup throughout the term. There is no playgroup on the last Friday of term.
 - ⌘ **Lunch/Full Day Program:** Gladigau Park Kindergarten does not have a separate Lunch Care Program. Lunch is part of our daily session, and families are not charged for this time.
 - ❖ **Bilingual Support:** Children from non-English speaking backgrounds may benefit from a bilingual person to support their development of English and maintenance of their home language. It is applied for as needed and depends on availability of a suitable worker and funding.
 - ❖ **Preschool Support:** Staff provide children with significant needs extra support to access the preschool program by arranging for assessments and employing additional staff to work with children. Funding for Preschool support is applied for from DECD on a termly basis according to the needs and

progress of the individual child. The child may have a diagnosed disorder, language difficulties, social/behavioural issues or developmental delays. Support workers implement a program designed by teaching staff in conjunction with Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists and/or Physiotherapists. Children are supported to work on specific skills on a 1-1 basis and then to apply those skills within the small group/large group/free choice experiences.

2. Key Centre Policies

Our Priorities are:

- To develop the oral literacy skills of all children by providing opportunities and experiences for children to express their knowledge and understanding effectively.
- To develop and enhance the well-being, engagement, social and emotional growth of children through the provision of a learning environment which enables children to interact positively and effectively with others and encourages their confidence, optimism, independence and self determination.

3. Curriculum

- **Framework used:** The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia – Belonging, Being, Becoming.
- **Core Values:** We aim to provide a stimulating learning environment that is safe, welcoming and supportive for families, where children learn through play that allows them to freely explore, problem solve, make decisions, create, socialise, practise and take safe risks.
- **Specific curriculum approaches:** Staff plan learning experiences and topics of interest based on their knowledge of children's individual needs, interests, strengths, and learning outcomes (Early Years Learning Framework), and is developed from individual observations of children. The daily curriculum is planned for and delivered in ways that are responsive to the children on the day, and extended over the term. Term projects are influenced by the Project Approach to learning and Reggio Emilia principles. Teaching practices are a combination of inclusive practices that model acceptance and support of all children, their families and the broader community. Each child has a Seesaw App online diary and a Learning Folder documenting the development of their skills and the learning experiences they have had. Parents are encouraged to have ongoing conversations with staff about their child's learning and development.
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects: We offer Circle of Security – Parenting Programs each term for parents out of Kindy hours.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile: 1 Director

1 Teacher (staffed with 2 part-time teachers)
Early Childhood Worker
Occasional Care Worker
Preschool Support as needed

- **Performance Management Program:** Each Staff team member considers their own goals for the year, in relation to DECD and the Centre's overall goals, their own Personal Development Plan and the strengths of other team members who can support them. Follow up meetings with the Director to monitor progress and report successes as needed.
- **Access to special support staff:** We have regular and ongoing contact with the DECD Mount Gambier Education Office Support Service which includes Special Educators, Psychologists, Speech Pathologists and Social Workers. Families can also access support through the South East Regional Community Health Service which includes Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists and Physiotherapists based at the Mount Gambier Hospital. Families may access support privately through 1 Stop Health which includes Speech therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapist and Psychologist.

5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds:** A small brick building built on small grounds, originally opened in 1983. There are two main activity areas inside, an office, kitchen (with safety barrier and swing door) and storerooms. Heating and cooling is provided by reverse cycle air conditioners. There is a verandah area for locker space where children can store their belongings as well as an area for setting up activities eg painting easels.
The outdoor learning area includes barked areas with climbing frames, a large covered sandpit, swings, a mound with slippery dip, vegetable garden and a covered paved area. With support from our Governing Council, we endeavour to improve the indoor and outdoor learning environments continually.
- **Capacity (per session):** 30
- **Centre Ownership:** DECD
- **Access for children and staff with disabilities:** Access to the building is possible, however the outdoor area is on different levels and it is more difficult to access all of the spaces.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- **General characteristics:** Mount Gambier is the main centre for industries such as timber/forestry, farming(dairy, cattle, sheep), viticulture (Coonawarra) and tourism. The culture is primarily Australian/European with migrants from South East Asia, Africa, Middle East and Europe. Families who enrol at Gladigau Park Kindergarten are from a range of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. The

City is well serviced with schooling, shopping, medical, sporting and cultural facilities. There is a city bus service running through the week and daily bus and plane services to and from Adelaide and Melbourne. School buses run from surrounding districts to Mount Gambier Schools.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool:** Governing Council supports the Director and staff and contributes to decision making about finance, fundraising, maintenance, policies and future directions. Parents are invited to participate at the level they are comfortable with. We have a parent cleaning roster with parents rostered on once or twice a term. Parents are encouraged to contribute to the learning program with skills and expertise they feel they can share with the children.
- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:** Our children mostly transition to McDonald Park School, but we also have a large percentage who feed to Mil Lel Primary School (which is 6 km from our centre in a rural setting) and to the 2 private schools Tenison Woods College and St Martins Lutheran College. The remaining children transfer to all of the schools in the Mount Gambier area.
- **Other local care and educational facilities:** Families can choose from 8 preschools or Child Care Centres in Mount Gambier. Three of these offer Occasional Care services. There are 6 Child Care Services operating as well as Family Day Care. Out Of School Hours Care operates at some of the schools. There are nine large and small primary schools in and around Mount Gambier, 2 high schools and 2 private schools. Gordon Education Centre provides education for school aged children with disabilities. Further studies with TAFE and UniSA are available through the Mount Gambier Campus'.
- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:** Mount Gambier is well serviced with employment and commercial facilities with government and private services available. Large shopping chains are represented as well as a variety of small business and weekend markets.
- **Other local facilities:** Mount Gambier Hospital caters for private and public patients, and there are 2 medical clinics as well as private doctor clinics. Most sports are represented with a number of clubs as well as a variety of recreational and sightseeing opportunities around the local area. A theatre puts on local and visiting entertainments, and the Cinema shows current movies.

- **Availability of staff housing:** Government Housing is available as well as private rental properties.
- **Accessibility:** Good quality and scenic roads to Adelaide via the Coorong or Keith if travelling by car. Plane and bus services are available between Mount Gambier and Adelaide or Melbourne. There is a city bus service and taxi for transport around the city.
- **Local Government:**
Mt Gambier City Council
10 Watson Tce
Mount Gambier SA 5290
Phone 8721 2555

Other tourist information available from
Lady Nelson Visitor and Discovery Centre
Jubilee Highway East
Phone: 8724 9750

Information about services in the area available from SECIS (South East Community Information Service)