### **Kaurna Plains Childrens Centre parent handbook**

www.preschools.sa.gov.au/kaurna-plains-childrens-centre

# **Table of contents**

- Home
- Learning and care
- Health and wellbeing
- Community engagement
- Reports and plans
- Family support
- Policies and guidelines
  - kaurna\_plains\_cc\_philosophy\_statement

## Home



A warm welcome to you and your child.

We work with other service providers and agencies to deliver integrated services for your child and family. Most health and parent support services and programs are provided at little or no cost.

We recognise and respect cultural diversity and provide programs that are inclusive of all members of the community. We also focus on supporting Aboriginal families.

There are many chances for you and your family to connect with our centre. We encourage you to get involved with the programs and services we offer.

Find out more about our goals and our focus in our philosophy statement (PDF 57KB) (https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/kaurna plains cc philosophy statement.pdf).

# **Getting involved**

We support family involvement in decision making about the services and programs offered in our children's centre. This includes becoming a member of the parent engagement group. To find out more contact our community development coordinator or director.

If you'd like to volunteer with us in other ways, we'd love to hear from you. See volunteering in schools, preschools and children's centres

(https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parenting-and-child-care/volunteers/what-volunteers-need-know/volunteering-schools-preschools-and-childrens-centres) and have a chat to us about how you can get involved.

# **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we are on and pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people who are present today.

### **Bushfire risk**

On forecasted 'catastrophic' fire danger days we will be closed. Make sure you know how we intend to contact you in this situation. You can find more information about an active bushfire from the CFS website (<a href="http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/">http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/</a>). See the bushfire page on the Department for Education's website (<a href="https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sites-and-facilities/bushfires-and-emergency-closures/bushfire-information">https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sites-and-facilities/bushfires-and-emergency-closures/bushfire-information</a>) for general information.

### **Immunisations**

When you enrol your child with any of our services or programs you will be asked to provide evidence of their immunisation status

(https://www.education.sa.gov.au/supporting-students/health-e-safety-and-wellbeing/early-childhood-services-immunisation-requirements).

#### **Contact us**

Preschool director: Miss Nyree Heading

**Phone:** (08) 8252 5936

**Fax:** (08) 8287 6682

Email: dl.2621.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

Street address: 85 Ridley Road Elizabeth SA 5112

**Postal address:** 69 Ridley Road Elizabeth SA 5112

# **Learning and care**

We offer a number of programs and services to support your child's early years learning (https://www.decd.sa.gov.au/teaching/curriculum-and-teaching/primary-and-secondary-curriculum/curriculum-taught-south-australia).

### Preschool

We invite you to join the governing council, which meets twice a term to make sure the centre runs smoothly. Read through what a governing council does

(https://www.decd.sa.gov.au/sites-and-facilities/governing-councils/understanding-governing-councils/what-governing-council-does) and speak to us to register your interest.

### When your child can start preschool

All children are entitled to access at least 1 year of preschool.

If your child turns 4 before 1 May, they can start preschool at the beginning of the year. If your child turns 4 on or after 1 May, they can start the next year.

If you want to delay your child's start to preschool or you're not sure about when they should start, please talk to us about your options.

If your child is Aboriginal or under the guardianship of the minister they are eligible for 12 hours of preschool after they turn 3. They will then be eligible for 15 hours per week of preschool in the year before they start school.

Early entry

Your child may be able to come to preschool up to 2 terms earlier if they:

- have additional needs or disability
- are learning English as an additional language or dialect
- are at significant risk because of family circumstances.

Early entry is for up to 3 hours per week in the first term, and up to 6 hours per week in the second term, if places are available.

Access is decided on a case-by-case basis.

Please contact us if you want more information about early entry.

### **Enrolling your child**

You can register your interest to enrol your child with us by using the preschool registration of interest form (<a href="https://www.education.sa.gov.au/doc/preschool-registration-interest-form">https://www.education.sa.gov.au/doc/preschool-registration-interest-form</a>). This form is also available from us.

Try to register your interest by 30 June, but you can do this any time during the year.

Priority will be given to children living in our catchment area (<a href="https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/kaurna-plains-childrens-centre#catchment">https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/kaurna-plains-childrens-centre#catchment</a>). If you don't live in our catchment area you should indicate at least 2 other preschool options on your form.

At Kaurna Plains Children's Centre, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children under the Guardianship of the Minister can enrol in the preschool program from 3 years of age. Kaurna Plains Children's Centre preschool program can take up to 58 children and is often full. There is a waiting list for families. You should enrol as early as possible so that there is a position for your child when they turn 3.

You can enrol your child from birth onwards. Children younger than 3 years old can access programs like playgroup (that parents come to as well) before they start preschool.

To find out more and enrol your child please contact the centre via phone or pop in for a yarn.

Before your child starts

As Kaurna Plains Children's Centre is unique, with ongoing enrolments and individual start dates throughout the year, families will be contacted individually when their child can start the preschool program.

### **Fees**

We ask you to contribute towards the cost of your child attending preschool.

Preschool contributions are \$40 per term

(https://www.education.sa.gov.au/teaching/south-australian-state-schools-term-dates) per child. If siblings are enrolled the cost is \$50 a term per family. These contributions are optional.

We really appreciate contributions from families. We use them to buy things like educational toys, equipment and excursions for the kindergarten children.

### **Kaurna Plains Childrens Centre parent handbook**

www.preschools.sa.gov.au/kaurna-plains-childrens-centre

### How to pay

Contributions can be paid either online via bank transfer or in person at the centre by cash. There is a money box at the centre where children can donate a gold coin each session.

**EFT** information

BSB: 105121

Account Number: 070115540

Please put your child's name in the description.

If you have any queries about payment, please talk to our director.

### **Preschool session times**

Your child can attend preschool for up to 15 hours per week.

Children entering school the following year can access extra hours. These are provided as full days on Fridays for the first 5 weeks of each term. The director will confirm this with you for your child.

### Yellow group

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.45am to 2.45pm	_	_	8.45am to 2.45pm	_

### Blue group

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
_	8.45am to 2.45pm	8.45am to 2.45pm	_	_

### What to bring

Children need to bring these items each day:

- bag
- full change of clothes (including underwear, and nappies/pull-ups if needed)
- piece of fruit
- packed lunch (sandwich or healthy option).

We will provide:

- hat
- drink bottle
- healthy snacks.

Please write your child's name on all their belongings.

Kindy t-shirts are available for sale. Please see staff to buy one.

### What not to bring

Children should not bring these things:

- food containing nuts (some children have nut allergies that can be dangerous)
- unhealthy food or drink (lollies, chocolate, chips, fruit boxes, fizzy drinks)
- toys from home.

# **Playgroup**

Playgroup is an interactive, fun opportunity for children and parents to play and learn together. Playgroups are usually supported by an early childhood professional who will give support, information and advice about children's health, learning and development.

Playgroup is offered throughout the school terms. It is a chance for parents to learn and play with their child. Please contact the community development coordinator for details.

# **Disability support**

There is support available for children with disability

(https://www.education.sa.gov.au/supporting-students/children-disability-and-special-needs). Talk to us for more information.

# Health and wellbeing

# **Family practitioner**

Our family practitioner works alongside vulnerable families and children to help them better understand and respond to their child's needs. They work with parents, our staff and other organisations to help families find relevant services to maintain safe, caring and resilient relationships for child development.

Family practitioners can provide short-term counselling for families to help with:

- domestic violence
- housing
- drug and alcohol problems
- mental health
- follow up and advocacy.

Please contact us if you think you need help from a family practitioner.

## **Community services**

Community health and wellbeing options for South Australian families include:

Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) (<a href="http://www.cyh.com/Content.aspx?p=361">http://www.cyh.com/Content.aspx?p=361</a>)

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) (<a href="http://www.wch.sa.gov.au/services/az/divisions/mentalhealth/index.html">http://www.wch.sa.gov.au/services/az/divisions/mentalhealth/index.html</a>)

Disability Services (<a href="https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/care-and-support/disability">https://www.ndis.gov.au/index.html</a>) / NDIS (<a href="https://www.ndis.gov.au/index.html">https://www.ndis.gov.au/index.html</a>)

Parenting SA (https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parenting-and-child-care/parenting/parenting-sa)

Women's and Children's Health Network

http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/about+us/our+local+health+networks/womens+and+childrens+health+network)

Greatstart parenting information

(https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parenting-and-child-care/parenting/learning-your-child-greatstart)

# **Community engagement**

# Family support program

Kaurna Plains Children's Centre is a place for Aboriginal families and their children.

Our team works together with families and the community to provide the best possible learning, health and wellbeing outcomes for children. Our team includes a community development coordinator, family support coordinator, speech therapist and occupational therapist.

### Programs include:

- playgroups
- groups for parents
- training opportunities
- community events and outings
- volunteering opportunities
- social and wellbeing groups
- connection and referral according to your needs
- visiting services, eg financial counselling.

### Cost

Small or no cost.

#### **Additional information**

For more information about these services call us on 8209 3840.

# **Reports and plans**

# **National Quality Standard rating**

Our services are assessed and rated against 7 quality areas of the National Quality Standard.



**Overall Rating:** Exceeding NQS

### **Quality Area Ratings**

1 Educational program and practice: Exceeding NQS

Children's health and safety: Exceeding NQS

Physical environment: Exceeding NQS
Staffing arrangements: Exceeding NQS
Relationships with children: Exceeding NQS

6 Partnerships with families and communities: Exceeding NQS

7 Leadership and service management: Exceeding NQS

Rating for: Kaurna Plains Children's Centre for Early Childhood Development and Parenting

Rating issued: April 2017

Copyright ACECQA (https://www.acecga.gov.au/copyright)

# **Quality improvement plan**

An assessment of the programs we offer against the National Quality Standard and national regulations. It identifies areas for improvement and includes our philosophy statement.

Quality improvement plan (PDF 1.12MB)

(https://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/kaurna\_plains\_cc\_gip.pdf)

## **Annual report**

A report on our progress, achievements, highlights and challenges for the year.

Annual report (PDF) (http://docs.decd.sa.gov.au/Sites/AnnualReports/2621 AnnualReport.pdf)

# **Family support**

# Giving your child a strong start in the early years

Research tells us that quality education and care early in life leads to better health, education and job outcomes in adulthood. Children are learning and growing from the time they are born. The greatest influence on a child's future health, development and happiness is in the first 5 years of life.

We're working with families to take a 'learning together' approach about child development in the early years.

# **Parenting resources**

Several early childhood parenting resources are available to help your child learn and grow right from the start.

Little Big Book Club (<a href="http://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/">http://www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/</a>) supports parents to read, sing and play with their children from birth, with access to book recommendations, reading packs and resources.

Dad's Read (<a href="http://dadsread.org.au/">http://dadsread.org.au/</a>) offers advice for fathers to encourage reading together with their child.

Parenting SA (<a href="https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parenting-and-child-care/parenting/parenting-sa">https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parenting-and-child-care/parenting/parenting-sa</a>) has free parenting factsheets, videos and upcoming seminars on many parenting topics.

### Positive Parenting program

(http://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/au-uken/find-help/triple-p-parenting-in-south-australia/?itb=bc37e109d92bdc1ea71da6c919d54907) has free seminars, workshops and one-on-one sessions for parents of children aged 3 to 12 years.

Learning with your child (GreatStart)

(https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parenting-and-child-care/parenting/learning-your-child-greatstart) gives parents everyday learning ideas and activities to help build their child's maths and language skills.

Raising Children Network (<a href="http://raisingchildren.net.au/">http://raisingchildren.net.au/</a>) provides up-to-date, evidence-based, scientifically validated information about raising children and caring for yourself as a parent or carer.

# Kaurna Plains Children's Centre Philosophy Statement:

We believe that the Kaurna people hold rich history and knowledge.

We believe that play and playfulness are important to support the wellbeing of children and adults.

We believe that children play, learn and grow in the context of their family, community and culture.

We believe that everybody has a right to feel a sense of connection, belonging and safety.

Relationships are the key to growing and learning.