



# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**Centre number:** 6636

**Centre name:** McRitchie Crescent Children's Services Centre

## 1. General information

- Preschool Director: Lavenia Dadleh
- Postal address: 55 McRitchie Crescent; Whyalla Stuart; SA 5608
- Location address: As Above
- DECD Partnership: Whyalla Partnership
- Geographical location: 394kms from Adelaide
- Telephone number: 08 86493535
- Fax number: N/A
- Preschool website address: [www.mcritchiecsc.sa.edu.au](http://www.mcritchiecsc.sa.edu.au)
- Preschool e-mail address: [dl.6636.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.6636.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Enrolment/Attendance: Over the last 5 years - Enrolment: Average enrolment 50 – 55 Attendance: 50
- Co-located/stand-alone: Stand alone
- Programs operating at the preschool:

☐ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children

Fullday Programs Monday to Thursday (9AM to 3PM). Children access 15 hours over a fortnight cycle. For example, Week 1 Monday, Tuesday &

Thursday and Week 2 Monday & Tuesday, thus alternating from week to week.

- Occasional Care: We have 2 funded sessions operating for children aged between 2 and 3 years of age. The sessions are on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9AM to 11:45AM
- Associated Programs: N/A
- Lunch/Full Day Program: N/A
- Bilingual Support: We currently have 8 children accessing this program.
- Preschool Support: We currently have 17 children accessing this program. There are also 3 children receiving IESP Extensive Funding.

## **2. Key Centre Policies**

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

Vision: McRitchie Crescent Children's Services Centre is a partnership of staff, parents and caregivers working together to increase engagement, learning & development, so that all children and their families are successful participants of our community.

## **3. Curriculum**

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework  
Staff use the Early Years Learning Framework to support teaching and learning approaches. Our programming and Reporting processes are based on the Learning Outcomes.  
Staff use The Indicators of Preschool Numeracy and Literacy when planning and reporting to families.
- Core Values: We value and respect the rights of the child. With our ongoing partnerships with the families. When parents/caregivers feel welcomed and valued, they will contribute more valuable information to their child's learning.

- Specific curriculum approaches: We provide a Play-Based Learning environment that encourages children to actively explore and use their imagination to engage with people, objects and the environment.
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects: Staff currently participating in the Whyalla Partnership Talk, Play, Read Project, with a focus on children's communication through a play-based approach.

## 4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile:
  - 1.0 Preschool Director
  - Shared 1.0 Teacher between 2 Special Authority to work Teachers – (0.6: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday and 0.4: teacher works Thursday & Friday)
  - 0.8 Early Childhood Worker – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
  - 0.4 Early Childhood Worker – Wednesday & Thursday
  - Occasional Care Coordinator – contracted for the year – Wednesday & Thursday Mornings
  - 3 Preschool Support Workers contracted per term as needed.
- Performance Management Program: Staff develop a performance development plan each year, that supports the improvement priorities outlined in the Preschool's PQIP (Preschool Quality Improvement Plan).
- Access to special support staff: Staff is accessed and negotiated depending on the needs of the children.
- Other: Nil

## 5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds: McRitchie Crescent Children's Services Centre is a stand-alone site. It is a purpose-built site with a site capacity of 40 -50 children.  
Design elements include large indoor and outdoor open spaces that allow children easy access to the learning play spaces. The outdoor learning environment is well shaded and includes a vegetable garden area, sandpit and imaginative play areas.

- Capacity: 45 - 50
- Centre Ownership: Department for Education
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: Easy access for children and families, there are no steps or stairs to prohibit access.
- Other: Nil

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

- General characteristics: The Preschool is in a generally busy street in a residential area.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool: The Preschool has an active supportive Governing Council. Parents are keen to participate in special experiences and events, assist with preparing resources and the washing roster.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: Our children transition to several schools across the Whyalla Community including the following:
  - Whyalla Town Primary School
  - Nicolson Avenue Primary School
  - Hincks Avenue Primary School
  - Fisk Street Primary School
  - Long Street Primary School
  - Whyalla Stuart Campus
  - Saint Teresa Primary School
  - Samaritan College – Our Lady of Help Christian School
  - Sunrise Christian School
- Other local care and educational facilities: Whyalla is lucky to have access to a University and TAFESa facilities. There are 5 ChildCareCentres, 1 Early Learning Centre, 6 Preschool/Kindergartens, 6 Primary Schools, 3 Private Schools and 1 Secondary College.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: Whyalla has two main shopping centres (one of which is the biggest in the rural area of SA) with many well-

known outlets e.g., Coles, Woolworths, K-Mart, Harris Scarfe, as well as many smaller speciality shops. There are electrical and furniture retailers, as well as arts/craft shops.

- Other local facilities: There are several local medical centres near the centre too. Whyalla has large sporting and recreational centres available to the community. There are sufficient hotels, motels and caravan parks across the town and various venues to host meetings and conferences.
- Availability of staff housing: Teacher housing is available as needed. Private rental properties available locally.
- Accessibility: Public transport is accessible across the road from the centre. Whyalla has flights or bus services to and from Adelaide. It takes approximately 4 hours by vehicle.

Local Government: Whyalla City Council. The Whyalla Council's website is: [www.whyalla.sa.gov.au](http://www.whyalla.sa.gov.au)

## **7. Further Comments**

- Partnership arrangements with other groups: The Preschool is a member of the DfE Whyalla Partnership. The leadership and staff have a close professional relationship with the local preschools, schools and secondary college through this partnership.