



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: September 2022

Centre number: 3654

Centre name: Mitchell Park Kindergarten

Mitchell Park Kindergarten is a Department for Education site. The service provides a preschool program for children who turn 4 by the 1st of May in their eligible year and has an integrated Occasional Care Program whereby 5 sessions cater for children over 2 years of age and 1 session for children Under 2 years of age.

From 2023, children who turn 4 between May and 31 October will be eligible to start preschool in Term 3.

Additional services to our community include family support and Child, Youth Health screenings each term. The centre also negotiates access to community services, networks and information or referrals to a range of support services for children and families. The principles of inclusion, social justice, advocacy and respect for every family determine our approach to the Educational and Care Programs that we provide.

Mitchell Park is a very diverse community. Children enrolled at the centre come from a diverse range of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. We continue to value and celebrate the rich diversity of families who choose to send their children to Mitchell Park Kindergarten.

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Caren Matthias
- Postal address: 30 Lanark Avenue, Mitchell Park 5043
- Location address: 30 Lanark Avenue, Mitchell Park 5043
- DECD Partnership: Marion Inland Partnership
- Geographical location: 12.3km from Adelaide GPO
- Telephone number: 08 8276 8578
- Fax number: 08 8276 7353
- Preschool website address: www.mitchellkgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.3654.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au



- Enrolment/Attendance: Current enrolments are at full capacity of 40
- Co-located/stand alone: Stand alone
- Programs operating at the preschool:
 - Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
 - Funded Occasional Care
 - Associated Programs: Early entry sessions are negotiated for individual children on a case-by-case basis.
 - Bilingual Support and Preschool Support programs enable children with special and additional rights to access the program equitably.

2. Centre Statement of Philosophy

At Mitchell Park Kindergarten we believe children's learning and wellbeing is paramount to their continuous growth and development.

Children

We believe:

- All children are competent and capable.
- Every child has the right to be happy, healthy and valued for who they are.
- Every child has the right to be actively involved in a high quality education.

Therefore:

- Every child's individual capabilities are acknowledged, celebrated and uplifted in a safe, secure and welcoming environment.
- Warm and responsive interactions between adults and children underpin relationships that inspire learning.
- All children are encouraged to express and act positively on their ideas, thoughts and feelings, working through any challenges as they arise.
- Equitable opportunities and individualised support contribute to children's learning progress.

Learning

We believe:

- Learning for all is constructed through inquiry and collaborative research.
- All children have the right to achieve their highest potential.
- Learning is an ongoing and lifelong process.

Therefore:

- All children's learning is extended from what they know, can do and understand.
- An active learning environment is embedded with high expectations and demonstrates a commitment to improving learning outcomes.
- Learning is co-constructed through collaborative partnerships.

Family and community partnerships

We believe:

- Children's identity growth and development are deeply connected to their family and culture.
- Community partnerships strengthen children's wellbeing and learning.

Therefore:

- The role of families as co-educators is valued and enriched to support shared decision making, mutual trust and open communication.
- Collaborative partnerships with the wider community benefit children's wellbeing and learning.
- Diversity in children's cultural, home and community experiences strengthen relationships and the learning program.
- Multiple perspectives are recognised, respected and valued authentically.
- We acknowledge, value and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as our first nations people.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework
- DFE Indicators of Preschool Literacy and Numeracy

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile: Currently the centre operates with a staff ratio of 1 educator to a maximum of 10 children.
 - Director: Full Time
 - Teachers: 1.4
 - Occasional Care coordinator (ECW 2) Part time
- Performance Management Program: Staff work with the Director to determine professional performance development goals in line with the quality improvement priorities. Staff meet with the director at least 2 times per year to monitor progress of performance goals.
- Access to special support staff: Bilingual and preschool support staff are employed on accordance to allocated funding.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds: The centre enjoys a beautiful outdoor learning environment that supports the principles of 'Nature Play'. The indoor learning environment provides many opportunities to engage in learning within an inspiring and sensory sensitive learning space.
- Capacity (per session): The overall physical capacity for the centre is 45 children at any one time.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: Mitchell Park is a very diverse community both culturally and socio-economically. English is the second language for a high proportion of children and families. Many of parents are overseas students who are studying at Flinders University which is located nearby. A number of other families reside in Government housing and some in emergency housing.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool: Parents are involved in a variety of ways in the kindergarten, from volunteering for day to day or incidental tasks to volunteering as a member on Governing Council. Parents and extended family members are also involved in our End of Term Celebrations where we hold a shared lunch.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: Generally, children transfer to Marion Primary School, Ascot Park Primary or Clovelly Park Primary School which are local Government schools and within the Marion Inland Partnership. Some children transfer to Non-government options including; Sunrise Christian School at Marion or St Bernadette's Primary School at St. Mary's. A small proportion of children transfer to schools outside Marion Inland Partnership. Every child and family are supported to make a smooth transition to school.