



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: June 2020

Centre number: 6549

Centre name: Murray Bridge Preschool Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director Bev Harrison
- Postal address PO Box 229 Murray Bridge 5253
- Location address West Tce Murray Bridge 5253
- DECD Partnership Murraylands
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km) 2 kms from GPO
- Telephone number 0885322758
- Fax number 0885326720
- Preschool website address: murraybkgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address dl.6549.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance
During 2020 we have had enrolments averaging between 38-47 and both enrolment and attendances have been consistent with those in 2019.

Staffing and child capacity for 2020 is currently for an enrolment of 50 child places.

- Programs operating at the preschool
 - Long Day Kindergarten of up to 15 hours per week for eligible children in the year before they start school.
 - Kindergarten for up to 12 hours per week for 3 year old Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children, and Children and Young People in care.
 - Early Entry(if space allows) for children with additional needs
 - Orientation, Transition
 - Lunch/Full Day Program
 - Preschool and Bi-Lingual support as needed and available

2. Key Centre Policies

All Centre Policies are available in the Policy Folder at the entrance table in the Kindergarten. Our Improvement Plan, Philosophy, Behaviour Support Policy and Centre Information are also available on the website.

Our annual Quality Improvement Plan outlines key areas for service improvement. Ongoing improvement priorities include

- Responsive relationships and well being through using Marte Meo strategies to support children's engagement, involvement and oral language skills.
- Continual improvement in learning design, informed by the Early Years Learning Framework, and collaborative critical reflection, including educator, family, child and community partnership.
- The use of Storypark as an individual planning cycle tool and communication method to involve families in a partnership to strengthen children's learning.
- Greater emphasis on family involvement, parent voice in decision making and planning, and valuing of families as partners in every aspect of service delivery.
- The development of Literacy, and Numeracy planning that results in quality teaching, learning and assessment of developmentally appropriate programs, individualised to children's strengths, needs and interests.

3. Curriculum

Frameworks used: Early Years Learning Framework

Preschool Numeracy and Literacy Indicators

Department for Education Child Protection Curriculum

Department for Education Literacy and Numeracy Guidebooks

- Murraylands Partnership have developed an Emergent Literacy Project, with all sites involved in training about E-POP: Emergent writing, Phonological awareness, Oral Language and Print Concepts. High enrolments of children with speech and language difficulties has also highlighted the need for continuing focus on oral language development and speech support programs.

Over the last 2 years we have had a focus on improving literacy curriculum and speech and language programs. We observe children through play and small group activities to collate developmental data on childrens

- Emergent writing
- Phonological awareness
- Oral Language and
- Print concepts

The data informs individualised planning to work in partnership with families and support services to support children to progress in their literacy and language development.

This year we are also engaging in professional learning and improvement of our numeracy curriculum, data collection and planning.

Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile Director 1.0, Teacher 1.4, Early Childhood Educator 0.6, Preschool Support Educator 0.4
- Access to special support staff as necessary and available
- Performance Management Program implemented annually, including growth coaching strategies, targeted professional development, and regular opportunities for feedback.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

Murray Bridge Preschool is a community owned building, providing a Department for Education Preschool program. It is the oldest early years setting in Murray Bridge, established in the mid 1950's. The current purpose built facility was built by the community in the 1970's. We take pride in our kindergarten through regular maintenance and minor refurbishments when possible.

We are co-located with the Murray Bridge Community Child Care Centre, a community based centre which was established in the 1980's. We are in close

proximity to Murray Bridge North School, Murray Bridge Special School and St. Joseph's School. The majority of our children transition to Murray Bridge North School (around 75%) with the remainder going to all the other local schools in the area.

Our kindergarten has a large outdoor learning space, as well as a kitchen garden, worm farm and chicken yard.

Several years ago our kindergarten children were involved in a consultation project with OPAL to plan the nature playground next door. Our current children can now enjoy the fruits of that project and we regularly enjoy challenging our bodies in this wonderful nature space.

- Capacity (per session) 30 children per session

We have a centre capacity of 30 children per session. Currently children attend long day sessions from 8:30am to 4:00 pm. Groupings are Monday, Tuesday group; and a Wednesday, Thursday group. Other attendance combinations can be negotiated to meet family's specific needs if space allows. Children with additional needs are supported by Department Support Services and may be eligible to receive additional support funding. Department staffing is currently a full time Director, Teacher and Early Childhood Worker.

Centre Ownership

The centre is community owned and runs a Department for Education funded program.

- Access for children and staff with disabilities

We strive to ensure access and participation for all people and make adaptations to the physical space and programs as necessary. Unfortunately, we do not have disabled toileting facilities at this stage.

We serve a community which reflects and celebrates the diversity of the Murray Bridge population, and we welcome children from Indigenous and Refugee groups, children for whom English is a second language, children with Additional Needs and Children and Young people in care.

- Other

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics:

There are a wide range of employment opportunities, cultural groups and community activities in Murray Bridge.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool

Parent and Community Involvement is encouraged and welcomed. Parents are encouraged to become involved in our Governing Council, to contribute to service review and improvement planning and to partner with us in planning a quality curriculum for children. Family social events, working bees, special kindy events,

excursions and information sessions are other ways to be involved. We value and encourage the inclusion of parent voice and involvement in all aspects of service provision.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
A large proportion of our children transition to Murray Bridge North Primary School, with small groups of children attending the range of other schools in Murray Bridge and the wider community, including Jervois and Mypolonga.
- Other local care and educational facilities
We are co-located with the Murray Bridge Community Child Care Centre. There are a number of other child care facilities in Murray Bridge who drop children off to our Kindergarten Program. Other Preschool Programs include Tynyri Children's Centre, Fraser Park CPC, Concordia Kindergarten and Tyndale ELC.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
Murray Bridge has a great range of shopping facilities.
- Other local facilities
Information about a wide range of sporting, cultural and community opportunities are available in the Community guide and on the internet.
- Availability of staff housing
Please check with Department for Education
- Accessibility
A short 45 minute drive along the freeway from Adelaide.
- Local Government
Rural City of Murray Bridge Council Area

7. Further Comments