

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: November 2017

Centre number: 4640

Centre name: EDEN HILLS KINDERGARTEN

1. General information

- Centre name
EDEN HILLS KINDERGARTEN
- Centre number
4640
- Preschool Director
Sarah Quihampton
- Postal address
4 Willunga Street, Eden Hills, 5050
- Location address
As above
- Telephone number
82783425
- e-mail address
DL.4640_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- DECD District
Southern
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
16 kms
- Enrolment/Attendance
54 full time families
- Co-located/stand-alone
Stand alone
- Programs operating
 - ❖ Pre Entry
 - 1 session per child per week integrated into preschool sessions
 - ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
 - 9 sessions per week: Mon-Fri am & Mon-Thurs pm
 - Emergency Care provided in certain circumstances
 - ❖ Extended Care

- Children attend Eden Hills Out of School Hours Care and Bellevue Heights OSHC at the end of the day for an extended day
- ❖ Lunch/Full Day Program
 - Lunch is offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for an additional cost of \$6.00 per day which covers the cost of staff employed to run the program.
- ❖ Bilingual Support
 - Bilingual Support Workers are employed as required.
- ❖ Preschool Support
 - The Kindergarten currently has 27% of children on special enrolment, several with high needs. These children are supported through the Preschool Support Program.

2. Key Centre Policies

To provide a high quality, play based curriculum in a stimulating and happy environment.

The focus areas in the Site Learning Plan include:

- **Executive Functions.** This is the fourth year that we have been working on this to help children to develop their working memory, cognitive flexibility and impulse control.
- **Literacy and Numeracy.** There is a whole of site focus on these areas of the curriculum with staff and parent training/information sessions, baseline data being collected and children's learning journeys being recorded.
- **Environmental Awareness.** The Kindergarten has a strong focus on environmental issues and is solar powered. Recycling initiatives include a worm farm for food scraps, can & bottle recycling, mobile phone & ink cartridge recycling. We are currently investigating a project linking rainwater to the toilets. A grant called 'Beyond the Gate, explorers of the Bush Block' supported the extension of the outdoor playspace beyond the Kindergarten.

3. Curriculum

- The Early Years Learning Framework is used to plan, implement and evaluate the curriculum.
- Specific curriculum approaches
 - All staff are trained in the use of learning stories as a tool to record children's learning journeys.
 - Literacy and Numeracy are priorities which are well resourced with over 100 kits for home use, 5 persona dolls and 20 questioning kits. Families also have access to a well-resourced children's and parent library.

Children feed into 9 schools including Eden Hills, Bellevue Heights and Blackwood Primary Schools, Special Schools and several Independent schools

- **Joint programmes/special curriculum projects**
 - Connections with sites within our Partnership include: a mathematics focus with Bellevue Heights Primary and a literacy focus with Eden Hills Primary.
 - Early Years educators in the Mitcham Hills Partnership have formed a PLC to look at Transitions with a focus on numeracy.
 - A mural on the front shed, designed by the children, includes a recycling station which is utilised by the wider community
 - Regular Parent Nights provide opportunities for staff and parents to learn together on specific topics.
 - The Kindergarten uses the Nature education centre as a resource for learning, borrowing animals on a fortnightly basis.

4. Centre Based Staff

- **Staff Profile**
 - The Kindergarten offers 9 sessions a week. As well as a Director, there are 1.4 teachers and 3 part time Early Childhood Workers.
 - The Admin grant is used to employ a Finance Officer.
 - With a high percentage of children with additional needs, there are support staff employed on termly contracts for Preschool Support.
 - Leadership days are used for Leaders Meetings and NEP meetings.
 - There are up to 30 children per day involved in the Lunch Care Program with 2 staff employed Monday to Thursday over the lunch period.
- **Performance Management Program**

There are currently 3 part time staff at the centre. Performance Management takes the form of Prochats twice a year- at the beginning of the year to set personal priorities and a review later in the year.
- **Access to special support staff**

The Centre accesses DECD and Community Health Services as required. Preschool Support, Social Work, Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Autism SA, Novita, CAYH and Inner South Community Health support educators and families at Eden Hills Kindergarten.

5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

The Kindergarten is of Besser Block construction with some asbestos in the facias and ceilings. There are 3 main playrooms, a children's bathroom and one adult toilet. There is a small storeroom and office. A verandah at the rear of the building is enclosed with plastic blinds. The building

recently converted to mains gas for heating and is air conditioned. Solar panels on the roof provide power. A new room was opened in 2012. This is currently a library and withdrawal room.

The Centre overlooks a “Bush for Life” Reserve.

- Capacity (per session)
The Kindergarten has up to 30 children per session.
- Centre Ownership
The centre is owned by the City of Mitcham.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities
There is an undercover ramp for disabled access. The parent carpark is adjacent to the building.

6. Further Comments

The library is used for CAYH screenings, parent groups, Speech and Occupational Therapy programs and a withdrawal room for children with additional needs.

A Quality Improvement Plan has been developed in consultation with educators, parents and Governing Council members. Child voice is important in this process.