



Mary Bywaters Memorial Kindergarten

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 28/07/2021

Centre number: **3649**

Centre name: **Mary Bywaters Kindergarten**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Preschool Directors: Amber Lee (Monday/Tuesday) Amy Hicks (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)

Postal address: 54 Corn St. Old Reynella 5161

Location address: 54 Corn St. Old Reynella 5161

DECD Partnership: Panalatinga

Road distance from GPO (km): 22 kms

Telephone number: 8381 2904

Fax number: 8322 8749

Preschool website address: www.marybywakgn.sa.edu.au

Preschool e-mail address: dl.3649.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

ENROLMENT/ATTENDANCE

2021 enrolment is 38 with good attendance

Attendance pattern: GROUP 1 – ‘Gum Nuts’ 24 children

Monday and Tuesday: 8.30am – 3.15pm

Friday (term 1 only) 8.30am - 2.30pm

GROUP 2 – ‘Desert Peas’ 14 children

Wednesday and Thursday: 8.30am – 3.15pm

Friday (term 1 only) 8.30am to 2.30pm

CO-LOCATED/STAND-ALONE: Stand-alone

PROGRAMS OPERATING AT THE PRESCHOOL

- Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
- Associated Programs: Early entry when places are available
- Full Day Program
- Bilingual support when needed. Not currently in place
- Preschool support for identified children



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KEY CENTRE POLICIES

Centre Priorities – Refer to the Quality Improvement Plan

Priority of Access Policy

CURRICULUM

Framework used: 'The Early Years Learning Framework of Australia': Belonging Being and Becoming

Site Philosophy Statement

Indicators for Preschool Numeracy and Literacy

Site's own Ongoing Planning Cycle – which underpins our planning process

CENTRE BASED STAFF

Staff Profile

1.0 Director

1.0 Teacher

1.0 ECW

0.5 Universal Access Teacher

Plus Preschool Support Worker

Performance and Development:

- Group goals:
- Individual goals

CENTRE FACILITIES

Buildings and grounds:

The original Kindergarten service opened in 1947 in the Methodist Sunday School Hall in Peach St, Reynella. The current building was opened in 1973, and now comprises of:

INSIDE

- 2 adjoining large activity rooms
- small room for specialised preschool programs
- children's bathroom with 3 toilets
- staff office
- small kitchen

OUTSIDE

- 1 large area around and level with the building; mainly paved with a small lawn and large shaded sandpit
- 1 larger area on a higher level with
 - creek water feature
 - level lawn area



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- variety of large shady trees
- produce garden with raised containers and compact fruit trees
- shaded climbing area
- multipurpose shed that can be a cubby house or storage for loose parts play.

CAPACITY 44 children per session

CENTRE OWNERSHIP DECD

ACCESS FOR CHILDREN AND STAFF WITH DISABILITIES

There are no steps through the gate or into the building, making them easily accessible. The gate and entrance doors will accommodate a wheelchair or double pram. There are steps and a ramp to the upper part of the outdoor area.

LOCAL COMMUNITY

General characteristics:

: A high percentage of families in the community have one or two parents working either full or part time. Main language is English. There are a small number of families for whom English is a second language.

Parent and community involvement in the preschool:

: Parents and grandparents volunteer to provide support eg, organisational tasks, excursion support, fundraising, Governing Council membership, gardening help. Centre management decisions are made in conjunction with our Governing Council.

Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:

: Children from this kindergarten go to a large number of schools. In 2020, about 65% went to Reynella Primary School, with the remainder going to 8 other government and non-government schools.

LOCAL COUNCIL City of Onkaparinga

LOCAL GOVERNMENT Electoral District of Mitchell

FURTHER COMMENTS

- Partnership arrangements with other groups:

: This kindergarten is part of the Panalatinga Partnership.

- Family and Community Engagement:



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:We have a strong focus on family and community engagement. Our kindergarten is located in a small township type environment. Prior to COVID-19 restrictions, we were visiting a Local Nursing Home once per term, engaging with a Retirement Village to establish a collaboration to help keep and sustain our edible garden. We were also implementing a Community Walks program within our curriculum to work in collaboration with local businesses on Community Inquiry Projects. These could include the recycling depot, Mitre 10, the local vet, the local garden centre, Nursing Homes and Retirement Villages, Bunnings, Foodland and utilising our local parkland for bush kindy. Our program is very intentional and planned for but will develop over time from children's ideas and intentional direction from our educators. Families are encouraged to engage in any way possible.

:We are currently investigating ways of assessing and reporting to parents using a variety of platforms. We are also looking at ways to include families in goal setting and observing/documenting progress against the 5 Learning Outcomes of the EYLF.

- Sustainability:

: We are aiming to achieve a high level of sustainable practices at our kindergarten. We are working with Green Adelaide (formerly the Natural Resources Management Board) to support our focus on composting through our bins and worm farm.

- Assessment and reporting:

: We are currently inquiring into our Assessment and reporting processes as a part of our ongoing planning cycle. We are considering using an online platform to replace our current Learning Portfolio Folders as a part of our focus on sustainability.