



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 10/2021

Centre number: 3654

Centre name: Mitchell Park Kindergarten

Mitchell Park Kindergarten is a Department for Education. The service provides a preschool program for children who turn 4 by the 1st of May in their eligible year and 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.

We are located immediately adjacent to the Mitchell Park Community Centre (funded by the City of Marion) and collaborate with the centre to offer a Playgroup program. 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: Catherine Somers
- Postal address: 30 Lanark Ave, Mitchell Park, 5043
- Location address: as above
- 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 operationat the preschool:
 - Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
 - Occasional Care: Funded
 - Associated Programs: Early entry sessions are negotiated for individual children on a case by case basis. Playgroup operates from the Neighbourhood Centre and is supported by the centre
 - Bilingual Support and Preschool Support programs enable children with special and additional rights to access the program equitably.

2. Centre Statement of Philosophy

We believe children have a wide range of capabilities and a strong sense of self identity. Every child has a right to be happy, healthy and respected for who they are. Children learn most effectively through play as they discover, create and imagine by themselves and with others.

We acknowledge and respect the deep connections children have with their families and culture that support their ongoing growth and development. Children’s capabilities and cultural diversities are celebrated and expanded through collaborative and respectful partnerships with families and the wider community. Educators learn with and from children and engage in their own professional development to provide a safe, engaging and inclusive environment, and experiences that strive to achieve equitable outcomes for all children.

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 maximum 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 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 in 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 and Clovelly park Primary School which are both local Government schools and within the Marion Inland Partnership. Some children transfer to either Sunrise Christian School at Marion or St. Bernadette's Primary School at St. Mary's. A small proportion of children transfer to schools outside the local partnership. Every child and family are supported to make a smooth transition to school.