



# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 2023

**Centre number:** 4689

**Centre name:** The Lady George Kindergarten

## 1. General information

- Preschool Director: Catherine Meyer
- Postal address: 27A Highgate Street Highgate SA 5063
- Location address: 27A Highgate Street Highgate SA 5063
- DECD Partnership: Greenhill South
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km) 5km
- Telephone number: 08 8271 6343
- Preschool website address: [www.preschools.sa.gov.au/the-lady-george-kindergarten](http://www.preschools.sa.gov.au/the-lady-george-kindergarten)
- Preschool e-mail address: [dl.4689.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.4689.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)
- The centre has a capacity of 30 children each session. The total site capacity is 60. Funding is provided for 55 children. A number of the children attending share their pre-school time with other early childhood services in the area.
- The Lady George Kindergarten is a stand alone centre. The site is a short walk from Highgate Primary School and is almost opposite St Johns Lutheran School, which has an Early Learning Centre attached.

- Programs operating at the preschool
  - Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
  - Bilingual Support
  - Preschool Support

## **2. Key Centre Policies**

- The core business of The Lady George Kindergarten is to plan and provide high quality learning experiences for children in their preschool year. This is supported by quality teaching and by working in partnership with families to meet the needs of each child. A number of policies have been developed and are available for public view in the centre or on our website, including:
  - Safety and evacuation plans
  - Behaviour code
  - Sun protection
  - Healthy Eating policy
  - Child protection
  - Grievance procedures
  - Toileting policy

## **3. Curriculum**

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework – Belonging, Being and Becoming
- Specific curriculum approaches
  - Emergent Curriculum is play based
  - We have an emphasis on child led learning
  - Joint programmes/special curriculum projects

## 4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile: The centre is staffed by a full time Director, two 0.7 teachers who work 3.5 days per week and a 0.5 Early Childhood Worker. Universal access money is used to fund the teaching staff and 22.5 hours for an ECW. The Governing Council approved a budget that self funds additional ECW hours. We also have Preschool and Bilingual Support as needed.
- Performance Management Program: All staff engage in regular performance and development processes. Access to special support is available to families in line with DfE guidelines.

## 5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds: The kindergarten building is a low ceiling open plan building on a suburban block in Highgate. The centre is of average size and has a capacity of 30 children. The renovated bathroom has 2 children's and one adult toilet. The small adjoining area is used for children's lockers. A large verandah with blinds extends the play area in all weather conditions. The building is air conditioned and heated and uses environmentally friendly lighting. The outdoor play area is shaded by 3 large oak trees, has a dedicated gross motor/climbing area with natural soft fall. The large sand pit area is covered by a solid pergola for all weather use and includes a 'cubby' area, bridge, water play, trickling creek fed from a rainwater tank and is surrounded by plants. Vegetable garden beds and general garden areas are also incorporated into the grounds.
- Capacity (per session): Centre capacity is set at 30 children per session as per DfE regulations. Staffing regulations of 1:11 means that funding is for a total of 55 families.
- Centre Ownership: The centre is owned by DfE and is on Unley Council land.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: Wheelchair access.

## 6. Local Community

- General characteristics: The cultural context of the centre includes families from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. The majority of parents are in professional employment with a high proportion of both parents in the workforce.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: The majority of children access Highgate Primar School and Unley Primary School. Both schools are in close proximity to the centre. Highgate Primary School is zoned and a number of families attending the centre place their children on the school waiting list. Children also attend a number of other schools including Glen Osmond, Linden Park and local private schools.
- Other local care and educational facilities: A number of children share time with local childcare centres such as Hawthorn, Precious Cargo and Hyde Park Nursery.

## 7. Further Comments

- Rated Exceeding across all seven areas in the National Quality Framework for 2017.
- Partnership arrangements with local preschools, schools and highschools.
- Links with the Early Learning team at Highgate Primary School are maintained with a strong transition program in place. Early years staff from both sites work closely together in planned transition programs and shared pedagogy.
- Partnership of Greenhill South Leadsr meet twice each term.
- District professional groups are maintained with local preschools – there is a strong Directors group which meets twice each term and work closely together.
- Teachers group meets termly for planned Professional Development.