



Uraidla and Hills

Community Kindergarten

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number 4614

Centre name Uraidla and Hills Community Kindergarten

GENERAL INFORMATION

Centre name Uraidla and Hills Community Kindergarten

Preschool Director Ms Helen Linggood

Postal address C/- Post Office Uraidla 5142

Location address Swamp Road Uraidla 5142

Courier round Hills

Telephone number 8390 1216

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DECD Partnership Mt Lofty Partnership

Geographical location – distance from GPO Approximately 19 km

Staffing numbers
Director– full time
Teacher 1- part time 0.5
Teacher 2 – part time 0.7
Early Childhood Worker 1 (ECW) part time 0.4
ECW 2 part time 0.5
The centre is full time

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Local children and beyond

Uraidla and Hills Community Kindergarten is centrally located to service the areas of Uraidla, Norton Summit, Summertown, Ashton, Basket Range, Piccadilly, Greenhill, Teringie, Carey Gully, Forest Range and Crafers. It is an isolated location and many children travel some distance to attend this, their local kindergarten. Many children live in a semi-rural environment with market gardens, orchards and hobby farms prevalent in the district. Other families live in one of the many small towns in the district. In recent years children have been coming from suburban Adelaide to access the kindergarten.

Buildings and grounds

The kindergarten is a new purpose built building constructed in 2014 with designated play areas for both indoor and outdoor learning and spaces for parents and community to share. We have the beautiful position being co-located behind the Uraidla School and looking out across the town oval. Access is from the monument located on Swamp Road. The same access used for the town oval.

Enrolment/attendance numbers and trends

The kindergarten has an enrolment cap of 44 children. Average enrolments 35-40 children

Year of opening

2015

Centre ownership

The kindergarten is a DfE run and operated centre. The building and its grounds are owned by the department

Access for children and staff with disabilities

The kindergarten includes disability access with ramps and wheelchair access to toilets for both children and adults.

Public transport access

Limited public transport to and from the city

Other local care and educational facilities

Uraidla Primary School offers before and after kindy care which many of our children access. There are local people offering family day care.

Local government body

The local council is the Adelaide Hills Council (telephone 8408 0400).

PROGRAMS OPERATING AT THE CENTRE

Kindergarten

Children in their eligible year of preschool. All children are entitled to two and a half days of kindergarten.

Orientation to kindy

Transition for children beginning at the centre occurs during terms 2, 3 and 4 prior to starting full-time preschool and is integrated with sessional children. This program is only available if the site is not at capacity.

Lunch care program

As all children attend two full days a lunch program operates. Parents provide all food for their children. Educators manage this program.

Occasional Care

Governing Council manages a non-funded occasional care program for all children transitioning into our centre. This program is available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9am – 12noon. Cost is \$30 per session.

Playgroup

A kindergarten run playgroup operates on Friday mornings from 9.30 a.m. to 11.00 am. The playgroup is managed by the Governing Council who employ an Early Childhood Worker to co-ordinate it. A fee applies to attend the playgroup

Special needs support

The kindergarten has access to departmental speech therapists, counsellors, disability coordinators and psychologists. Through discussions with families, carers and staff, children can be referred to the Support Services Team. After referral the department may provide preschool support for a particular child or group of children. The site's Early Childhood Worker provides this support in conjunction and under the direction of support services and the site's teacher/director. Where necessary negotiated curriculum programmes are implemented.

School transition

Most of our children transition in to the local public schools of Basket Range, Uraidla, Norton Summit and Crafers Primary School. St Catherine's (Stirling), and other private schools in the city receive a smaller progression of children.

Parent and community involvement

Parents have a valued, supportive and involved role in the curriculum, providing resources, animals, cooking, sharing of skills and professional expertise. Parents provide transport for local excursions and become involved in the Governing Council of the kindergarten.

The Governing Council manages two major social/community events during the 1st and 4th terms and also coordinates fundraising events. Families also support the kindergarten through working bees etc.

Partnership/co-operation/arrangements with other groups

Children, Youth and Women's Health Service visits the centre once a year for health screening of children in their fifth year before attending school.

CURRICULUM

Framework used

Our learning program is a play-based curriculum using the national *Early years learning framework (EYLF): Belonging, being and becoming*. Central to our philosophy is the idea of connectedness for children and families:

- Connectedness with self and others so children feel safe, secure and supported; develop confident self identities; ad ability to interact with others (*EYLF Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity*).
- Connectedness with the natural environment, both visual and physical, so that our children can grow to appreciate the natural world and live sustainably; where children can access learning that is flexible and can occur where ever they are in our centre (*EYLF Outcome 2: Children are connected and contribute to their world*).

- Connectedness with the local community – mutually beneficial relationships and connections with the three local public schools, playgroups, volunteers, businesses and community groups, including the mobile library service (*EYLF Outcome 2: Children are connected and contribute to their world*).
- Connectedness with a strong sense of wellbeing (*EYLF Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing*).
- Connectedness with learning technologies to stimulate and support communication, curiosity and creativity, as well as facilitating collaborative and social learning (*EYLF Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners* and *Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators*).

CORE BUSINESS

Core values

Our core business is to facilitate expanding outcomes for children.

We will do this by:

- providing a knowledgeable staff team eager to work in partnership with parents;
- a play based curriculum which focuses on each child's background, interests, strengths and needs;
- quality teaching practices and interactions which support each child's learning and development of knowledge, life skills, competencies and attitudes that are determined from ongoing assessment for learning.

We believe that:

- Every child is a unique individual
- Education is a shared role between parents, caregivers and staff
- The most powerful way children learn is through play
- Skilfully guided play ensures growth of children's knowledge and skills
- Children learn best when they are empowered to have a voice in their learning environment
- Children need opportunities to develop responsibilities, independence and other life skills

Specific curriculum approaches

Provide an environment for preschool children that promotes life skills and competencies through play. Educators value the importance of play and are committed to providing a stimulating play-based learning environment in which the children are active participants in the planning, implementation and evaluation of their learning.

Children, educators, parents and the broader community work together to support the learning. Kindergarten must be fun for all involved.

Assessment procedures and reporting

Assessment is continuous from the day the child begins.

Reporting is both informal through conversations with families and staff and formal through transition reports.

Children's learning folders display a collection of photographs and samples or photocopies of the children's work. Included with these is an explanation of the photo with links to the EYLF curriculum. Children's milestones and progress is recorded in these folders. Folders go home at the end of every term for children to share their learning with their families and friends. Parents are

asked to share the folders with the child reception teacher when the child starts school. Digital photos are regularly used and displayed throughout the kindergarten.

Throughout the year staff develop programs for individual children with their families.

Transition reports are written for every child leaving the centre for school or to move to another preschool. This report and the learning folder are shared with

Quality assurance processes

Parent surveys, verbal feedback, assessment and reporting. National Quality Framework

Philosophy Statement

Our philosophy aims to reflect the shared values of our Adelaide Hills community, its children, families and educators.

We have strong connections with both our natural and built environments and aspire to look after these for future generations.

Relationships are at the heart of what we do.

We value genuine connections that promote collaboration and mutual respect. Through these nurturing and trusting relationships we strive to achieve the best outcomes for all.

Everyone is unique, capable and competent.

We value the diversity of cultures, individual thoughts, ideas and ways of learning and endeavour to respond flexibly in our practices and curriculum.

Learning is a lifelong process.

We value individual strengths and interests. From this foundation we facilitate a spirit of inquiry and a culture of continuous learning, reflection and growth.

We believe skilfully guided play supports the development of creativity, flexible thinking and collaboration.

Performance management program

With such a small staff team this is managed in a friendly and informal manner twice a year. A performance management policy exists for staff.

Uraidla and Hills Community Kindergarten is a very dynamic kindergarten and we welcome your involvement with us.