

CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: August 2020

Centre number: 6548

Centre name: WAIKERIE CHILDREN'S CENTRE



1. General information

- Centre name Waikerie Children's Centre
- Centre number 6548
- Centre Director Christina Ziegler
- Postal address 16 Marks Tce, Waikerie SA 5330
- Location address 16 Marks Tce, Waikerie
- Telephone number 8541 2692
- Fax number 8541 3126
- e-mail address dl.6548.admin@schools.sa.edu.au
- Webpage www.waikeriecc.sa.edu.au
- Facebook site Waikerie Children's Centre DECD
- DECD Partnership Region Loxton Waikerie
- Geographical location 180kms from GPO
- Enrolment/Attendance
 - :40 session capacity
 - :30 place Childcare Centre
- Stand alone Integrated Rural Service
- Programs operating
 - ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
 - Offering 15 hours of kindergarten weekly over 8 daily sessions on Monday to Thursday. Session times 8.30 -11.30am and 12.15 to 3.15pm. Children can attend a combination of sessions.
 - One year intake- children turning 4 before May 1st are eligible to start at the beginning of the year. Children turning 4 on May 1st or after commence kindy the following year.
 - ❖ Childcare
 - :Full long day care for 30 children. Babies room catering for a maximum 4 or 8 under 2's per session to cater for capacity allowance and 1:4 educator ratios. Over 2's room catering for maximum of 22 children due to room capacity and 2yrs 1:5 ratio and 3-5yrs old 1:10 ratio. Children are booked into age groups of 0-2, 2-3 and 3 and over and mixed ratios apply throughout the day for staffing purposes.

❖ Lunch/Full Day Program

:Preschool children can use the lunchtime care service that is provided by our centre's childcare service. This is a separate charge and families may be entitled to childcare benefits. Childcare staff supervise this lunchtime care session.

❖ Bilingual Support

:Children's cultures are supported throughout the centre through childcare and preschool. Additional funding can be sourced to provide further multicultural support.

❖ Preschool Support

:Children with additional needs are supported through DFE and Childcare support providers based on individual needs per term.

❖ Transition information and Orientation sessions

Transition information sessions are held in term 4 prior to the year the children commence preschool. Parents are informed at a Parent information session and children are invited to two orientation sessions with their parents. Children involved in childcare have regular visits into the kindy room.

2. Quality Improvement Plan

Our centre has been assessed in June 2017 and received a rating of EXCEEDING National Quality Standards.

Adherence to the National Quality Standards and Framework through a detailed and documented QIP.

Seven Quality areas inform our practice and our Quality Improvement Plan that is identified through a self review process with staff and Governing Council:

Educational Program and Practice

Children's Health and Safety

Physical environment
Staffing arrangements

Relationships with children
Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

Leadership and service management

Our site goals for 2019-2021 focus on improving oral language skills and children's reflection of their learning:

Goal 1: Children to collaborate and critically reflect on their learning.

Goal 2: Increase children's use of tier 2 words across the centre.

3. Curriculum & Key Centre Policies

- Belief Statement: Our Integrated Centre aims to provide care and education for young children and their families. We aim to compliment care and education within the family and support parent/caregivers, staff and our diverse community

through a unique environment that allows children to thrive and be involved in their own learning.

- Our vision is to provide an accessible, high quality, play-based care and education service that is well resourced with highly professional and knowledgeable staff, who work in partnership with each other, families and the community, providing an inclusive program that is based on a platform of learning which is responsible to the unique needs of each child.
- Through consultation, we have established our core values to be:
 - : Excellence, Honesty, Respect, Professionalism and Partnerships
- Framework used: Belonging, Being and Becoming
 - : Implementing of the Early Years Learning Framework across the Centre using a play based learning approach to support our planning and assessment of children's learning.
- Our philosophy guides our practice and is reviewed bi-annually or as needed.
- Engagement in joint programmes and special curriculum projects. Strong focus on parent partnerships, learning stories, documenting the child's voice, integration and family learning across the centre.
- Strong focus on early intervention throughout the centre.
- All children must be immunised as per the directive by SA Health, NO Jab NO Play law to attend the centre.

4. Centre Based Educators

- Educator Profile (approximately 20-25 educators)
 - : Director (1.0): Teacher (1.5), ECW (.5) in preschool
 - : Childcare staff: Assistant Director, plus trained and untrained educators
 - : Clerical Officer and Finance Manager
- Performance Management Program
 - : Ongoing Performance Management Program is conducted with all educators in formal and informal review meetings.
- Access to special support staff
 - : Access to special support staff is available through District Education Office, Childcare support agencies and Riverland Country Connect.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
 - : Our service was built in 2001 and is situated within the new housing development and opens onto wide open spaces. The building is designed and purpose built for childcare and preschool with separate rooms, kitchen,

withdrawal room, two sleep rooms. Our grounds were extended in 2015 to take in an additional 30 metres and provides for a fabulous yard for play.

- Capacity (per session)
: 41 children per session in preschool and 30 licensed childcare places offered daily Monday to Friday. Centre open from 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.
- Centre Ownership
: DFE own the building and land, with a 5 year lease arrangement for newly acquired land as part of the fence extension.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities.
: Access for children and educators with disabilities is available.

6. Local Community

- General characteristics:
: Waikerie township is close to the banks of the River Murray and provides employment in horticultural and associated industries for vineyards and citrus. Languages usually spoken at home include English, Punjabi, Vietnamese, Afghan and Aboriginal.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
: Parental involvement from those using childcare and preschool is very strong with added enthusiasm as this Centre is held in high regard in the community.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
: Waikerie Primary, Ramco Primary, Blanchetown Primary, Waikerie Lutheran Primary, Cadell Primary.
- Other local care and educational facilities,
: Playgroup is available from Ramco and Waikerie Primary schools. A local high School is available within Waikerie, Waikerie Primary School run OSHC, some Family Day Care available within the town and surrounding areas.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
: 2 Supermarkets (Woolworths and Foodland) Police Station, Chemist, Mitre 10, 2 Bakeries, Service Stations, Clothing stores, Bank SA, ANZ Bank, Car Dealers, Hairdressers and numerous cafes etc.
- Other local facilities, eg medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational
: Waikerie Hospital, Medical Clinic, Community Health Facilities and Services, Sporting and Recreation Centre Complex, Waikerie Hotel, Waikerie Club, Heated Swimming Pool, Sporting Oval, Community Library.
- Availability of staff housing
: DFE housing is available and is managed by the department.

- Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality
 :Stateliner runs a daily bus service to and from Adelaide to Waikerie via the main Sturt Highway passing through the Barossa Valley. This also provides access to other main Riverland Towns upstream, Barmera, Berri, Loxton and Renmark.
 Public Transport is not available within the town. Passenger taxi service is available. Air Service is not available.
- Local Government body
 :District Council of Loxton-Waikerie has offices in Loxton and Waikerie.
 Waikerie – Ph: 85410 700
 The council produces maps of the area, which are available. General information about the district is available from the Tourist Offices in both towns. The Council caters for a population of approximately 5,000 people. Council continues to offer great support to the Children's Centre.

7. Further Comments

- Partnership/incorporation arrangements with other groups
 The Waikerie Children's Centre is an Incorporated body under the Incorporations Act.
 There are two Governing Council bodies representing preschool and childcare within the centre that merge as one committee.
 The Waikerie Children's Centre is part of the Waikerie Partnership group.
 The local librarian runs a monthly reading program in the centre providing children with literacy and activity experiences.
 We strongly support students undergoing placement for high school work experience and training organisations.