



# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 12/2023

**Centre number:** 4676

**Centre name:** Woodside Preschool Playcentre

## 1. General information

- Preschool Director Robyn Herringer
- Postal address 12 Moffett Street Woodside SA 5244
- Location address 12 Moffettt Street Woodside SA 5244
- DECD Partnership Torrens Valley Partnership
- Geographical location – road distance from GPO (km) Approx 38km
- Telephone number 83897103
- Fax number 83899263
- Preschool website address: [www.woodsidepre.sa.edu.au](http://www.woodsidepre.sa.edu.au)
- Preschool e-mail address [dl.4676\\_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.4676_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)

- Enrolment/Attendance

Year	Ave Enrolment	Ave Attendance
2018	39	37
2019	36.5	34
2020	40	37
2021	39	37
2022	41	39
2023		

- Stand-alone preschool

Programs operating at the preschool

- Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children

Up to 15 hours of preschool is provided to children in their eligible year prior to starting school. Weekly sessions- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays 8.30am-3.30pm With additional hours made up with one off excursions during year.

- Occasional Care

Funded Occasional Care Sessions Monday and Wednesday. Cost per session is applicable

- Associated Programmes - Pre-Entry

A pre-entry programme is offered to the families in the term before children commence preschool, if space and numbers permit.

- Associated Programmes – Early Entry

One preschool session per week can be offered to the families of children with additional needs in the term before commencing preschool, if space and numbers permit.

- Lunch/Full Day Program

Offered on preschool days. Children to bring their own lunch.

- Bilingual Support

Offered as needed- this service can be accessed for children identified as having specific needs relating to culture or language

- **Preschool Support**

This service is accessed for children identified as having specific needs that affect their learning and development (may include speech & communication, behaviour, ASD, social delays)

- **Playgroup**

Run by a volunteer playgroup coordinator and supported by the preschool for any interested families in the community. Operates on Friday Mornings 9.30am - 11.30am during term times.

## **2. Key Centre Policies**

### **Core Priority**

Woodside Preschool provides a playful learning environment. We promote the co-construction (co-creation) of meaning, drawing of both adults and students as a powerful resource to support an active learning environment. Staff work in partnership with children to nurture individual interests and to scaffold (build) new learning based on these interests.

Woodside Preschool actively promotes the benefits and joy of discovery and exploration in the indoor and outdoor environment equally in all weather. Measured risk taking is encouraged and all children are supported to challenge themselves in their play and learning.

In 2024 our Preschool Quality Improvement Plan Goal is:

Children will extend and enrich their learning through prioritising regulation which will increase their ability to engage consistently in purposeful play-based learning.

## **3. Curriculum**

Frameworks used:

- The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
- Child Protection Curriculum (Keeping Children Safe)
- Respect, Reflect, Relate
- Learning Dispositions
- Preschool Numeracy and Literacy Guides (including indicators)

### Specific curriculum approaches:

At Woodside Preschool we believe that children learn best through play.

***Play based learning:*** (EYLF) A context for learning through which children organise and make sense of their social worlds, as they engage actively with people, objects and representations.

At Woodside Preschool we support the belief that children learn best when actively engaged in the co-construction of meaning.

**Co-constructs (EYLF):** learning takes place as children interact with educators and other children as they work together in partnership.

We promote an active learning environment: a play-based curriculum that supports the co-construction of meaning.

**At Woodside Preschool where the co-construction of meaning is supported you will observe that:**

- Children are active participants in their learning
- Children's life skills are nurtured and individuals are supported to reach their full potential
- Children's individual needs/interests are met
- Children's learning is relevant
- Children's earlier learning supports new learning
- Children's self confidence and wellbeing are supported in a trusting/stimulating environment.
- Children's learning is self motivated
- children's learning styles are nurtured

**Joint programmes/special curriculum projects**

- Shared practices with Woodside Primary School involving playground, oval visits and physical development skills & Big Buddy
- Programme Excursions – local community and city-based performances and Bush Kindy.
- Incursions including Mobile Junkyard.
- Child and Youth Health screenings promoted and supported when available.
- Community engagement through -Mother's Night, Father's Night, Grandparents & Special Friends Day, Family Tea, Community Wheels Day.
- Transition programmes with local schools.

## 4. Centre Based Staff

### Staff Profile

The centre is currently comprised of 10 staff

- Director: 1 x 0.8  
Diploma of Teaching Early Childhood Education, Bachelor of Education, 4 years
- Teaching Staff: 3 staff working various hours and days 1.4  
Diploma of Teaching Early Childhood Education, Bachelor of Education, 4 years
- Early Childhood Workers  
1x Early Childhood Worker Preschool Support Worker & Admin/finance officer,  
Occasional Care -Diploma in Children's Services  
2 x Early Childhood Worker Support Worker  
Diploma in Children's Services  
1 x Early Childhood Worker Occasional Care Worker  
Diploma in Children's Services  
1 x Early Childhood Worker  
Certificate 111 in Early Childhood Education and Care  
1x Early Childhood Worker & Occasional Care Worker  
Working Towards Diploma of Teaching (1<sup>st</sup> Year)

Staff have identified areas of strength and provide leadership across a range of roles and responsibilities in centre operations.

- Performance Management Program  
All staff participate in the Performance Management Review process as part of the Self Review process conducted at the centre on an annual basis.
- Access to special support staff  
The Department of Education processes of referral for a variety of support needs including behaviour issues & disabilities and have access to a variety of outside agencies.  
The services available through The Department of Education for children and their families include Social Worker, Speech Pathology, Psychology, Special Education Preschool Support and the allocation of support staff to support children with additional needs

## 5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds  
Centre built in 1976 and is located within walking distance of Woodside Primary School and the main street. The outside consists of landscaped area designed by the children, a chicken coop, vegetable garden and has an area that can be enclosed for use in the wet weather, along with many cleared areas for various activities. The large sandpit is fully covered by a shade awning. The grounds are fully fenced and maintained by a gardener and families at the centre. Inside, the centre has 2 separate rooms primarily for Sessional kindergarten and the other

for Occasional care. These rooms both have access to reverse cycle air-conditioning.

Capacity (per session) 45

- Centre Ownership

The Department for Education and Child Development

- Access for children and staff with disabilities

Wheelchair access is available. No disabled toilet or carpark. The outside environment (incl.sandpit) has some access for children in wheelchairs or with limited ability.

## **6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)**

- General characteristics:

The centre services families from a diverse range of townships. Woodside started life as a Scottish immigrant settlement which was predominantly Dairy Farming however viticulture is now the main industry in the area. Woodside is also renowned for its strong links with Australian Defence Force providing a base since the 1930's, currently housed by 16<sup>th</sup> Air Land Regiment. Woodside and neighbouring townships are experiencing stable growth and the wider community continues to welcome families from diverse cultural backgrounds.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool

Parents participate in various roles in the centre which include Governing Council, session participation, fundraising, centre promotion and the parent help roster.

Parents are also invited to attend extra activities offered by the centre staff, which includes Graduation/Celebration evenings, Father's and Mother's Night, Grandparents/Special Friends Day and Woodside Primary School Transition Information Meetings.

The centre offers high school students the opportunity to partake in a work experience program on a regular basis at the centre.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool

Woodside Primary School, Lenswood Primary School, Lobethal Lutheran Primary School, St Francis de Sales College, St Michaels Primary School, Hills Christian Community School, Oakbank Area School.

- Other local care and educational facilities,

Family Day Care is available in Woodside, Lobethal and Oakbank, Childcare Centre at Oakbank & Hahndorf.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

The main shopping precinct is Mount Barker about 16kms by car from Woodside. Woodside does offer a shopping centre along with postal facilities, newsagency, butcher, hairdressing, banking facilities, chemist, a takeaway store and a variety of café's and second hand/art stores. In the outer township, Woodside has a small industrial area offering sign writing, Chocolate Factory and cheese making to mention a few.

- Other local facilities

Woodside is home to the Woodside Warriors sporting club which offers Netball, Cricket, Soccer and Tennis. Woodside also offers Bowls, Darts, Table Tennis and various other keep fit activities in the local halls. Woodside has two doctors' surgeries and are manned 5 days per week.

- Availability of staff housing

Not available

- Accessibility

- Woodside has a limited bus service connecting it with the surrounding towns and Adelaide Area. Car to Adelaide is the quickest method taking between 35-60mins depending on which part of Adelaide you wish to access.

- Local Government

Woodside forms part of the Adelaide Hills Council.

South Australia is currently governed by the Labor Party .

## **7. Further Comments**

- Partnership arrangements with other groups

Woodside Preschool is part of the Torrens Valley Partnership of The Department of Education with other preschools and schools.

The Education Director is Caroline Fishpool.