

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre name: Adelaide Miethke Preschool

Centre number: 5601



1. General information

- Director: Ms Suzanne Dawson
- Postal address: Cnr. Oval & Cedar Avenue, Woodville South 5011
- Location address: Cnr. Oval & Cedar Avenue, Woodville South 5011
- DECD Partnership: Inner West
- Education Director: Mr Paul Newman
- Location: The centre is situated a short distance from Port Road and is part of a community space incorporating Woodville Oval, Woodville Tennis Club, Croquet Club, Dog Park and Community Playground.
- Telephone: 8345 5019 - Kindergarten
8445 6936 – Occasional Care
- Fax: 8268 9328
- Preschool website: www.adelaidekgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.5601.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance: 70 (2016)
- Co-located/stand-alone: Stand-alone



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Programs operating at the preschool

Sessional Kindergarten:

- Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 3.30pm
 - 2 Groups : Monday - Tuesday **and** Wednesday - Thursday.
 - Each group will be offered 5 full day sessions on Friday in term 3.
 - Staff non-contact is taken each Friday.
 - Alternate attendance patterns (e.g. 4 half days) may negotiated for children with additional needs if the centre is not at capacity.
- Since 2014 the centre has seen a significant increase in enrolments.

Programs:

- A number of transition sessions will be offered to children commencing in 2017.
- Early-entry for children with additional needs and those with English as a second language will be offered if vacancies exist.
- Family playgroup runs each Friday from 9:30am – 11:30am.

Occasional Care:

- A DECD funded Occasional Care Program runs over 4 sessions each week. Sessions are provided for both over 2's and under 2's.
- There is very high demand for Occasional Care and a priority of access operates.
- The kindergarten and occasional care programs are committed to supporting children's continuity of learning and offer integrated learning times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. All Staff work closely together in all aspects of the program.
- Sessions run-

Monday	8:45am – 11:45am	(under 2's & over 2's)
Tuesday	8:45am – 11:45am	(2 x over 2's)
Wednesday	8:45am – 11:45 am	(under 2's & over 2's)
Thursday	8:45am – 11:45am	(2 x over 2's)

Lunch Care:

- Additional staffing is site funded to facilitate staff breaks during the lunch time period.

Bilingual Support:

- In 2016 +25% children enrolled in the kindergarten program identified as a child with English as an Additional language.
- The centre is committed to supporting children and families with EALD.
- Bilingual Support is offered where ever possible through the DECD bilingual support program.

Preschool Support:

- Preschool support is provided to children with additional needs. The centre staff work closely with both DECD and private providers.
- The Speech and Language Screening Program is conducted to support the identification, referral and establishment of individual programs for children with oral language difficulties.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families :

- A small number of ATSI children are enrolled.

Children under the Guardianship of the Minister:

- A small number of children under the guardianship of the minister are enrolled.

2. Key Centre Policies

- **Core Values**

Trust, Respect, Acceptance, Enjoyment, Responsibility, Equality, Honesty, Care and support for self and others

- **Centre Priorities**

- Nature Pedagogy
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Transitions including home to centre, Occasional Care to Kindergarten and Kindergarten to School.

3. Curriculum

Framework used: **The Early Years Learning Framework**

The curriculum is developed in partnership with children through a play based program. Our staff work as a team to provide high quality teaching and learning programs within the context of the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care.

Through the Framework's five learning goals, we will assist each child to develop:

- A strong sense of their identity
- Connections with their world
- A strong sense of wellbeing
- Confidence and involvement in their learning
- Effective communication skills

The staff

- Respect each child as an individual, and work to develop each child's confidence, competence and wellbeing.
- Plan from children's interests to support meaningful learning.
- Recognise the importance of an environment that values and supports the child's social and cultural context
- Ensure a balance of teacher initiated and child lead curriculum.
- Promote the development of language, literacy and numeracy skills.

Curriculum Initiative – Nature Pedagogy

Adelaide Miethke Preschool was one of 5 sites in the Preschool Outdoor Learning Area Project (POLA) to receive a redevelopment of the outdoor learning space focussing on nature play principles. Together with the community and architectts the kindergarten staff worked to develop a nature play space that captures children's interests, supports them to take risks and learn in what is an exciting natural learning environment for children birth – school age.

The learning space was completed early in term 3, 2016.

The staff are committed to working as a team with the community to develop a joint understanding of the importance of children engaging with the natural environment and to that end are committed to extending opportunities for children to learn and play in the outdoor learning space. Staff have had the opportunity to be involved in a range of professional learning opportunities and there is a whole site commitment to developing how we work in and with nature.

The preschool teacher is expected to be committed to teaching and learning in the outdoor learning space and be leader in furthering the professional learning of the team in relation to nature pedagogy.

4. Centre Based Staff

- **Staff Profile - 2015**

Kindergarten: 1.0 Director, 1.0 Teacher, 1.5 ECW + Universal Access

Preschool Support (+15 hours/week)

Bilingual Support (+6 hours/week)

Lunch Care (+3 hours/week)

Admin Support (+5 hours/fortnight)

Occasional Care: 31.75 hours

Hours shared by 2 ECW's.

- **Performance Management Program:**

Performance Management Plans are developed by staff annually and reviewed throughout the year.

5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds:**

The centre was established in 1952 and is well maintained with spacious rooms and grounds. Significant improvements have been made to the building since 2014.

The outdoor learning space is large and newly designed and established through our involvement in the POLA Project. There is a separate Occasional Care space however the two learning spaces are regularly integrated.

The DECD funded Occasional Care program was established in 2009 with the relocation of Hindmarsh Occasional Care. This service is now an additional program of Adelaide Miethke Preschool.

- **Site Capacity:**

Kindergarten: 44 children

Occasional Care: 15 children

- **Centre Ownership:**

The site is owned by DECD and situated on land owned by the City of Charles Sturt.

- **Access for children and staff with disabilities:**

Disabled access is available to the Centre via a ramp.

6. Local Community

- **General characteristics:**

The centre is situated in an established community in a residential area.

The centre is easily accessible by bus on Port Road.

The centre is located within walking distance to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

There are many services located within close proximity.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool:**

Many parents are in the paid work force and a high proportion of children have both parents in full or part time work or undertaking study. There is a high demand for full day sessions.

We have a small but active Governing Council.

Parents support staff through involvement in the curriculum and by assisting with a variety of tasks (cutting up fruit, odd jobs, working bees, etc.).

Parents are very involved in excursions and events throughout the year.

The centre holds an Annual Art Show as a major community function.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:**

The centre has children moving off to a large number of schools in the community.

The 3 main feeder schools are:

Woodville Primary School

Nazareth Catholic College

Whitefriars School

- **Other local care and educational facilities:**

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Community Child Care Centre

Various private child care facilities

- **Other local facilities**

The centre is located walking distance from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Woodville Oval, and has an adjacent Council playground.

- **Accessibility**

Public transport is readily available on Port Road.

- **Local Government**

City of Charles Sturt Council – phone 8408 1111

7. Further Comments

- **Partnership arrangements with other groups**

The centre is part of the Inner West Partnership and works closely with the DECD schools and preschools within the partnership. Agreed Partnership priorities underpin the work of all sites within the partnership and influence the centre's direction.

Closer links are being developed with Woodville Primary School through a transition to school focus.

8. Philosophy

The centre philosophy is available on the centre website.