PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: February 2009

Centre number: 3657
Centre name: Morphett Vale Preschool Kindergarten

1. General information

- Centre name: Morphett Vale Preschool Kindergarten
- Centre number: 3657
- Preschool Director: Shelley Mair
- Postal address: 20 Venning Street, Morphett Vale. 5162
- Location address: 20 Venning Street, Morphett Vale, 5162
- Telephone number: 8382-1597
- Fax number: 8326-8273
- E-mail address: kindy.director@morphettkgn.sa.edu.au
- DECS District: Southern Adelaide
- Geographical location: 25kms from GPO
- Enrolment/Attendance: Average: 45 children
- **Co-located/stand-alone**  Stand alone

- **Programs operating**
  - **Pre Entry**
    Integrated into Preschool sessions.
  - **Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children**
    Preschool sessions are offered Monday – Thursday.
    Session times for Morning sessions – 8:45-11:30AM.
    Afternoon sessions – 12:15-3:00PM
  - **Occasional Care (indicate whether funded or unfunded)**
    Unfunded
  - **Extended Care**
    Not applicable
  - **Lunch/Full Day Program**
    Full day sessions are offered in conjunction with our centres
    Lunch Care program. A priority of access applies to these programs.
    This priority is found in the centre’s Lunch Care policy. Preference is
given to children of working or studying parents/caregivers.
    Lunch Care program operates on Monday, and Wednesday.
    There is a maximum of 8 children per lunch care session.
  - **Bilingual Support**
    A bilingual support worker can be requested to support children
    from Non English Speaking Backgrounds as the need arises.
  - **Preschool Support**
    Can be requested to support individual children with special
    needs such as, difficulties in speech and language, sensory integration,
    behaviour, or disabilities that may prevent them from accessing the
    whole curriculum at their optimum levels.

- **Governing Council**
  We are a locally managed site and the Governing Council is a
  representation of the parent body of the preschool which is elected
  annually at the centre’s AGM in February. The Governing Council are
  responsible for policy development and decision making in line with
  DECS priorities and the kindergarten Director.
MISSION STATEMENT  ‘We believe that all children have the right to experience the wonderment of childhood - to grow, to investigate through rich quality play in a warm and respectful environment which reflects the diversity of our community’.

Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose
  The Site Improvement Plan is an agreement of what Morphett Vale Preschool Kindergarten’s priorities will be for the specified years 2008 - 2010.

Our current strategic learning priority areas are:

1. **Improved Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for all children.**
   ‘All children will experience a wide range of Literacy and Numeracy activities’.
   ‘Children will develop and extend their learning’.
   ‘Families will be involved in childrens learning’.

2. **Health & Well being, ‘The Holistic approach’**
   ‘All children will develop strategies to manage their feelings and behaviours’.
3. **Curriculum**

- Early Years Learning Framework.

The staff team at Morphett Vale Kindergarten collaboratively plan the weekly program, taking into consideration:-
- Individual children’s needs based on observation or information
- Current and relevant happenings in the environment
- Child initiated suggestions and interests
- Evaluation of previous week’s program in conjunction with developmental learning outcomes.

- **Assessment and Reporting.**

Each child at preschool is treated as a very important individual. Throughout their time at kindergarten there will be ongoing formal and informal assessment and recording of their continual progress.

These processes include:-

- A portfolio (their own learning folder) containing samples of their work and photographs of different learning situations from their first weeks at pre entry through to their final week when we farewell them to school.
- **Pre entry** – Getting to know you sheet (completed by parent)
- Record of the child’s first drawing representation of self.
- **Term 2** – ‘Midway preschool report’ and parent interview if requested.
- **Term 4**
  - Child’s drawing representation of self.
  - Recording of child’s comments.
  - Parent interview if requested.
  - Summative report

A summative report is compiled by the teacher and summarises the child’s development prior to going to school. This is written against ‘Developmental Learning Outcomes’ and is forwarded on to the child’s school.

- Parent feedback sheet

This is given to parents at their child’s completion of kindergarten asking their
opinion of whether they thought their child benefited from attending Pre School? It also requests parent’s ideas for possible improvements.

Core Values

Respect, Caring, Honesty, Tolerance and a Positive self esteem.

These 5 values are an interwoven part of our curriculum learning.

4. Centre Based Staff

Staff Profile

Director 1.0 - PSD 1

Teacher- 1.0

Early Childhood worker (as required) when numbers of children attending kindergarten are more than 49, warranted staff includes a 0.5 ECW.

• Performance Management Program

A formal performance management process is in place and used as a tool to ensure staff are content and working at optimum levels of teaching.

• Access to special support staff

Staff and parents of children with special needs have access to work closely with our staff team from ‘student support and disabilities’ unit.

Support staff include the student support coordinator, speech pathologists, child psychologists and experienced staff who may work with and support individual children on a weekly bases at the kindergarten.

The student support unit is a DECS funded facility based at Noarlunga House.

5. Centre Facilities

• Buildings and grounds

The building is a single brick unit stand alone facility built in 1971. The outdoor area is a wonderful aesthetically pleasing natural learning environment with plenty of shelter and shade.
Two adjoining sheds are used for the storage of outdoor equipment. The Director and Governing Council work closely with a Facilities Manager employed by the Department of Education to ensure that the preschool building and surrounding facilities are safe and in sound repair. All maintenance, building and repairs are completed after consultation with the Governing Council.

- Capacity (per session) 35
- Centre Ownership DECS owns both building and land.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities. A ramp is located at the double doors at the rear of the building under the verandah.