

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 25/08/15

Centre number: 4682

Centre name: Mitcham Preschool Centre

1. General information

- Centre name
: Mitcham Preschool Centre
- Centre number
: 4682
- Preschool Director
: Mrs Chris Catt
- Postal address
: 2 Mitcham Community Crt, 150 Belair Rd, Hawthorn, 5062
- Location address
: as above
- Telephone number
: 82712042
- Fax number
: 82728272
- e-mail address
: Chris.Catt906@schools.sa.edu.au
- DECD Partnership
: Mitcham Plains Partnership
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
: 5kms
- Enrolment/Attendance
: 80+ children
- Co-located/stand-alone
: stand alone
- Programs operating
 - ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children – 10 sessions per week
: children attend in either blue or gold groups as follows
Blue group – Monday 8.45am – 11.15am / Tuesday & Thursday
8.45am – 3pm
Gold Group – Monday 12.30pm – 3pm / Wednesday & Friday
8.45am – 3pm
 - ❖ Lunch/Full Day Program is offered Tuesday to Friday

- ❖ Bilingual Support
:as required
- ❖ Preschool Support
:as required

2. Key Centre Policies

- **Statement of Philosophy**

At Mitcham Preschool Centre we strive to provide excellence in preschool education – providing an innovative and challenging environment which fosters a desire to learn and which nurtures each child to their full potential.

- As skilled, professional educators, we aim to foster each child’s love of learning, through creating an environment where they can laugh, play and enjoy being children.
- Our role is to provide a happy, safe, relaxed and enriching environment which challenges and stimulates each child’s skills and abilities, extending their interests and facilitating wellbeing.
- Our educators acknowledge the importance of learning through play. Children develop social, emotional, cognitive, physical and creative skills through engaging in a play based curriculum.
- We are committed to building and maintaining positive, respectful relationships; between staff and children, children and children, and staff and families.
- The diverse needs of our community are reflected in our inclusive practices. We respect what each child brings to the Centre; values, beliefs and culture.
- Our curriculum is based on the Early Years Learning Framework which underpins our reflective practices and our commitment to continuous improvement.
- We value enquiry based learning as a way of broadening children’s perspectives to facilitate deeper understanding.
- Staff and children work together to learn about and promote the sustainable use of resources and to develop and implement sustainable practices. These practices are embedded in daily routines and procedures at the Preschool.
- Staff encourage children to be independent, resilient, self-directed learners who develop positive interpersonal relationships, and acquire the skills and competencies that prepare them to be lifelong learners and active members of the community.

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3. Curriculum

- **Framework used:** Early Years Learning Framework

The learning program is based on the “Early Years Learning Framework for Australia – Belonging, Being and Becoming”. This framework is a National Curriculum document and is used in all South Australian Preschools.

- **Our Shared Vision**

Mitcham Preschool Centre is recognized within the community as providing excellence in preschool education – providing an innovative and challenging environment which fosters a desire to learn and which nurtures each child to their full potential

We will do this because of our commitment to:

- Equity and opportunity to access all aspects of the program
- valuing diversity & demonstrating multicultural perspectives
- valuing the importance of literacy & numeracy for every child
- learner health & well being – wellbeing is the combined physical, social, emotional, cognitive & spiritual state of being
 - developing partnerships with parents and carers
 - fostering community awareness
 - strengthening liaisons with local schools and child care centre’s
 - providing a play based learning program
 - provision of a safe environment
- providing the opportunity for each child to reach their full potential as confident, independent people who are willing to take risks

Our vision is based on the following qualities and principles shared by our preschool community

Equity/ caring, consideration & compassion / honesty & integrity / respect for self & others / perseverance / tolerance / optimism / resilience / responsibility / encouragement / self belief / trust
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- **Specific curriculum approaches**

inquiry based approach to learning

commitment to fine & gross motor coordination through the “Funtastics” motor coordination program, walk weeks

Strong literacy & numeracy programs

Learner Wellbeing through “Reflect, Relate, Respect” Document, Child Protection Curriculum

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
: Nil

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
 - The Centre warranted staffing includes
 - ❖ Director 1.0 / Teacher 1.0 / 2.0 ECW
 - Staff team is configured as
 - ❖ Director 1.0 / Teacher 0.5 / Teacher 0.5 / ECW 1.0 / ECW 0.5 / ECW 0.5 (Staff team also includes an additional Universal access teacher 0.5)
- Performance Management Program
 - Our performance management is based on self reflection, twice yearly reviews and is tied closely to our Quality Improvement Plan to identify training and development needs for all staff.
- Access to special support staff
 - :speech pathologists, special educators, bilingual support workers
- Other
 - :

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
 - Magnificent heritage listed building – large facility with a number of rooms
 - Large outdoor play spaces
 - Building maintained by centre and DECD
 - Mitcham Council support some maintenance programs
 - Large number of car parks
- Capacity (per session)
 - 45 children in Pre School Sessions
- Centre Ownership
 - :The centre is owned by the City Of Mitcham
- Access for children and staff with disabilities
 - :2 disabled car parks, ramp & rails from car park to the external verandah
 - :Due to the Heritage Listing of the building some of the modifications required to enable adequate and successful access for children or staff with disabilities are unable to be made.
- Other
 - :

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments)
:NA
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
The Centre has a strongly supported Governing Council and all functions are well supported by the parent community
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
:Mitcham Primary School, Westbourne Park Primary School, Colonel Light Gardens Primary School, St John's School, St Joseph's School,
- Other local care and educational facilities, eg child care, schools, OSHC
:Hawthorn Childcare Centre – some children access both Mitcham Preschool & Hawthorn Childcare Centre, with the childcare centre providing bus transport.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
:Mitcham Square Shopping Centre
- Other local facilities, eg medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational
:NA
- Availability of staff housing
:NA
- Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality
:NA
- Local Government body (name, phone number), availability of publications describing the local area (with source, cost), characteristics, level of involvement
:NA

7. Further Comments

- Establishment of new services and/or programs
:
- Partnership/incorporation arrangements with other groups
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