

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 1/12/2022

Centre number: 4682

Centre name: Mitcham Preschool Centre

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Maddie Hall
- Postal address :2 Mitcham Community Crt, 150 Belair Rd, Hawthorn,5062
- Location address:as above
- DfE Partnership: Mitcham Plains
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km):5kms
- Telephone number: 08 82712042
- Preschool website: www.mitchampre.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.4682.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance:77 children
- The kindergarten is a stand alone, full time kindergarten
- Programs operating
 - ❖ Universal access

The centre offers 15 hours of preschool. Children will be placed in either gold group or blue group

 - 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 educators and children, children and children, families and families, educators and families, educators and educators
- 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.
- We promote respect, unity and understanding, building connections and embedding 1st Nations perspectives into the curriculum, environment and centre values.
- 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.
- We provide opportunities for intellectual stretch and promote the development of growth mindsets, by inspiring children to accept challenges, take risks, persist in a safe, encouraging and nurturing environment
- Educators 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.
- Educators 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.

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.
 - Preschool literacy and numeracy indicators

- **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

- ***Specific curriculum approaches***
 - Inquiry based approach to learning
 - commitment to fine & gross motor coordination through the “Funtastics” motor coordination program
 - Strong literacy programs which encompass’ phonological awareness and bookmaking
 - Strong numeracy programs, which encompasses a focus on STEM
 - A focus on growth mindsets through challenge tasks, developing resilience and persistence
 - The Child Protection Curriculum
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
: Nil

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
 - The Centre warranted staffing includes
 - ❖ Director 1.0 / Teacher 1.5 / 1.5 ECW
 - Staff team is configured as
 - ❖ Director 1.0 / Teacher 1.0 / Teacher 0.5 (universal access teacher) / ECW 1.0 / ECW 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

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
 - The preschool is located in a magnificent heritage listed building. It is a large facility with a number of rooms, allowing for small and large group activities and separate lunch groups.
 - There are a large number of storerooms which are well utilised.
 - There is a large outdoor play space, which was fully landscaped in 2018. The outdoor play space comprises of a large sandpit with accessible tap; a creek with accessible tap, digging patch, mud kitchen, potions table, swings, climbing area, slack line climbing ropes, tee pee, stage and a larged grassed area for ball games etc.
 - There is a beautiful vine extending from the verandah providing shade in spring through to autumn
 - The building is maintained by the centre and DFE
 - Mitcham Council supports some maintenance programs
 - There are a large number of car parks
 - The preschool is located adjacent to the Mitcham Library and Brownhill Creek
- Capacity (per session)
 - 44 children in Pre School Sessions
 - Currently blue group have 33 enrolments and gold group have 44 enrolments
- 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.

6. Further Comments

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
 - Mitcham Primary School, Westbourne Park Primary School, Colonel Light Gardens Pimary School, St Joseph's Primary School, Kingswood,
- 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.
- The Centre has a strongly supported Governing Council and all functions are well supported by the parent community