PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 6645
Centre name: Norrie Stuart Childhood Services Centre

1. General information

- Preschool Director Mandy Klessens
- Postal address 2 – 4 Dowd Street Whyalla Norrie
- Location address 2 – 4 Dowd Street Whyalla Norrie
- DECS Region Eyre and Western
- Geographical location – i.e. road distance from GPO (km) 400km
- Telephone number 08 86454552
- Fax number 08 86457720
- Preschool website address:
- Preschool e-mail address kindy.director@norriestuartcsc.sa.edu.au

- Enrolment/Attendance
  As a 0.5 preschool service the enrolments have been in the high 30's and low 40's. Recently there has been a decline and the enrolments are in the high 20's. Attendance remains at an average of 4 children absent each day
  Occasional care program offers 24 places per week and the service is well utilised with about 35 families using the service on a regular basis

- Co-located/stand-alone
  Stand alone

- Programs operating at the preschool
  Pre Entry: Sessions held on Thursday afternoons 12:30pm – 3:00pm, cost is $2.00 Available to all children who have enrolled at
approximately three years and nine months. Children bring in piece of fruit which is cut up and shared by all the children

Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children Sessions are held

Monday 9 am - 12 noon
Tuesday 9 am – 3 pm
Wednesday 9 am - 12 noon
Thursday 9 am - 12 noon

Working and studying parents have priority for children staying all day Thursday 9 am – 3 pm (14 positions available)

Universal access allows 4 year old children to attend 15 hours per week. Extended Care – Early and late care is provided for working parents and for emergency basis from 8:30am Prior arrangements necessary

- Lunch/Full Day Program available on a Tuesday and Thursday
- Bilingual Support
  As required.
- Preschool Support
- Playgroup – Monday 12 noon – 2 pm Cost – $2.00. Lunch or snack brought and eaten by individuals

Occasional Care funded program

: Funded program – 3 sessions per week for 2 – 4 year olds.
 Wednesday and Thursday mornings session times – 9.00 am – 12 noon. Thursday afternoons 12:30pm – 3:00pm. ECW2 employed 0.3 to operate the program which runs concurrent with four year old sessions. Cost $5.00 per session unless concessions ($1:50), siblings ½ price.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose
  : To increase family involvement in meeting the learning needs of their children within the centre.
  : To improve children’s learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy.
  : Emergent Literacy focus
3. **Curriculum**

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
- Belonging, Being and Becoming
- Respect, reflect Relate document
- Child Protection Program

- Core Values
  - We believe children learn through play. We provide opportunities for children to learn life skills and become resilient learners.
  - The education of children; providing a stimulating, relevant, inclusive, learning and caring program where each child is encouraged and supported to reach full potential.
  - Develop positive partnerships with families and the community.
  - Staff, children and the wider community working together collaboratively.

- Specific curriculum approaches
  - We plan developmentally appropriate activities for children from 2 –5 years.
  - We aim to promote a seamless service playgroup to school.
  - Early Intervention Funds are used to support children individually or within a cluster group

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
  - Children are encouraged to participate in Library borrowing - 2 books per week – parent volunteer to run this program.
  - Visit local school for Librarian to read children a story and to borrow books. Books come back to kindergarten for the week. Attend performances at school wherever possible.
  - Visit local school to go into the reception classrooms to become familiar with school life. (Buddy class)
  - Literacy Kits are assembled by staff. Children and families borrow these for a week and return them. Literacy kits include many different modes of communication.
  - Show and Tell. Children have the opportunity to bring along an item to speak about; this item relates to the kindy program and is on a set theme
  - Family book. Children take home the family book and create a special double page about their family. Upon returning the book the child speaks about their family to the group.
Cooking program. The centre has a healthy eating focus with shared fruit for snack/fruit time. Cooking operates once a week with a staff member or occasionally with a parent. Children have an opportunity to cook and try new healthy foods.

4. Centre Based Staff

Staff Profile
- Director – 0.7
- Teacher – Permanent 0.6
- ECW1 – 0.6 contract until end of 2012
- ECW2 – Occasional Care Worker contracted until end of 2012.

- Performance Management Program
  - We meet weekly for staff meetings and continue to establish directions and goals to be achieved. We work collaboratively and ensure we have an effective means to communicate with each other. Twice a year staff members meet individually with director to personalise their PMP and to gain feedback.

- Access to special support staff
  - Special Educators or Early Intervention (usually ECW)
  - Contracted according to allocation of support hours.
  - Visits from Disability Coordinator, Speech therapists, Occupational therapist etc

- Other

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  - The building is two ex housing trust units joined together with some internal walls having been removed. The outside of the building has recently been painted with brightly coloured window sills to stand out.
  - The kitchen and children’s toilets have been upgraded.
  - Interactive white board installed.
  - Outdoor area has recently received maintenance; A new large shed for more storage and a large verandah providing extra shade.
  - The large sand pit and bark chip area for climbing also have separate shade structures.
  - A children’s fenced vegetable garden, large lawn area and digging patch.
- Capacity (per session) : 45
- Centre Ownership : DETE.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities : Ramp at entrance door. Centre is set up to cater for deaf children. Has carpet on walls and curtains to muffle sounds.
- Other

6. **Local Community** (intended for country preschools)
   - General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments).
   - : A few families have dual income, many single parent families on benefits or unemployed. The majority of fathers work within construction type industries. Majority of families are from European backgrounds.
   - Parent and community involvement in the preschool : Parents operate cooking program and library borrowing once a week.
   - Parents assist by washing and ironing centres laundry
   - Parents are reluctant to become part of Governing Council. Fees are generally paid. Most are happy to support fundraising events.
   - Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool : Local feeder school is only a house block away. Not all children go to the local school; some go to other state schools or one of three private schools.
   - Other local care and educational facilities, : Whyalla has four childcare centres and some family day care providers. Some of the children at the Centre use these services as well as sessional kindergarten.
• Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  Whyalla has excellent shopping and banking facilities, including Target, Harris Scarfes, Woolworths, Coles and many specialist retailers. The major employer is One Steel.

• Other local facilities
  Whyalla has a large hospital and many sporting, social and recreational clubs.

• Availability of staff housing
  Teacher housing is available either as a house or a flat

• Accessibility
  Buses service most of Whyalla. A taxi service is also available. Planes (Rex) make regular daily flights to Adelaide and there is also a bus service to Adelaide (Premier Stateliner).

• Local Government
  The Corporation of the City of Whyalla – ph 86403444. The Council publishes a guide to Whyalla each year and distributes it free to each household.

7. Further Comments

• Partnership arrangements with other groups
  Whyalla kindergarten directors’ meet fortnightly to discuss strategic directions and prospects of working collaboratively to benefit children and families of Whyalla.

  The Smith family run several programs which are promoted through kindergartens HIPPY program send out regular newsletters and children and families are encouraged to use the service. Aimed at 3 ½ years olds to 4 ½ year olds requiring guidance.