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
   - DECD 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: www.norriestuartcsc.sa.edu.au
   - Preschool e-mail address dl.6645_leaders@schools.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 in enrolments due to the commencement of ‘same start day’ and the site is not accepting new enrolments until next year. 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
     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)

Guardian ship of the Minister (GOM) Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islanders children can attend 4 sessions per week from the age of 3
years.

Universal access allows 4 year old children to attend 15 hours per week.

Extended Care – Early care is provided for working parents and for
emergency basis from 8:45am

- Lunch/Full Day Program available on a Tuesday and Thursday
- Bilingual Support as required.
- Preschool Support as required
- NEP’s, IEP’s and ATSI plans are formed children who require them
- Individual Learning Plans (ILP) for every child
- 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 3 – 4 year olds.
  - Wednesday and Thursday morning’s 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
  - We respect children as unique individuals and value their diverse
    backgrounds. We support the learning and the wellbeing of every child and
    use the Early Years Learning Framework – Belonging, Being and Becoming.
    To guide our curriculum decisions that will best support every child to engage
    fully and confidently in the program.

  - In our practice we will continue to
    - 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
A safe and stimulating environment that encourages children to engage in a range of experiences

Provide a learning program that supports each child to meet EYLF outcomes

Build strong relationships with family and community

Assess and document children’s abilities and needs

Plan a program that is appropriate and responsive to individual needs abilities and interests ensuring children have input

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 3 – 6 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.
: 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 – 0.5 contract until end of 2014
ECW2 – Occasional Care Worker contracted until end of 2014.

- 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 Co ordinator, Speech therapists, Occupational therapist etc.
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**
  - DECD.

- **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.
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 choose to attend Governing Council and members are formed from this. Fees are generally paid. Fundraising events are well supported.

- 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 upgraded 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 twice a term and principals and Directors meet once per term 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.