PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 4/2/2013

Centre number: 4626

Centre name: Kathleen Mellor Kindergarten

1. General information
   
   • Preschool Director: Anne Willis
   
   • Postal address: 51 Bowen Road Tea Tree Gully, 5091
   
   • Location address: 51 Bowen Road Tea Tree Gully, 5091
   
   • DECD Region: Northern Adelaide:
   
   • Geographical location – 20 km from GPO
   
   • Telephone number: (08) 82643603
   
   • Fax number: (08) 83953607
   
   • Preschool website address: www.kathmellkgn.sa.edu.au
   
   • Preschool e-mail address: dl.4626_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
   
   • Enrolment/Attendance
     
     The centre has had a stable enrolment/attendance pattern over the last 5 years, with an average of 30 children attending.
     
     • Co-located/stand-alone: Stand alone Preschool/Kindergarten
     
     • Programs operating at the preschool
       
       ❖ Pre Entry: Where possible Pre-entry is offered to children in the term before they are eligible for full time kindergarten.
       
       ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
Lunch/Full Day Program: On the days we operate a lunch program is part of the program. There is no additional cost for the lunch program.

Preschool Support: We offer Preschool support for children who are identified as requiring additional support to access the kindergarten program.

2. Key Centre Policies

- The centre is a part of the Northern Adelaide Region’s initiative in raising children’s comprehension levels.
  We develop children’s skills in Phonological Awareness, Print Awareness and Oral Language. We assess and plan using the Phonological Skills map.

3. Curriculum

Framework used:
- The centre uses the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) to plan and implement a play based program.
- At Kathleen Mellor our vision is “for each child to become a confident, competent learner who is physically and emotionally healthy and is a caring participant in our community”

Core Values
- Respect, Honesty, Self worth, Friendship, Safety/security and Knowledge.

Specific curriculum approaches
- We use Child Protection frameworks and strategies.
- The centre visits Tea Tree Gully Primary School twice per term to use the IT facilities and also the Discovery Centre (library/science lab)
  - The Kindergarten has a relationship with the OSHC facility at Tea Tree Gully Primary School. The OSHC staff walks children who are booked in to the morning program to the kindergarten in the mornings and the kindergarten staff walk the children back to the OSHC program at the end of the kindergarten session.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
  The centre currently operates with a 0.6 Director, 0.6 Teacher, a 0.6 ECW1
The centre employs a Finance Officer (ECW 1) for 2 hours/fortnight

- **Performance Management Program**
  
  Our Performance Management processes encourage staff to regularly review their goals/action plans in line with key National/DECD/Regional and local priorities and to work collaboratively to achieve these.

- **Access to special support staff**
  
  Our centre has regular access to a variety of team members for additional support eg. Disability Coordinator; Early Years Initiatives Coordinator and Speech Pathologists.

5. **Centre Facilities**

- **Buildings and grounds**

  The kindergarten was built in the early sixties, with a spacious main room and large withdrawal room attached.
  
  The outdoor area is primarily in a bush setting with many mature gum trees offering natural shade.
  
  There are two large carparking areas to ensure ease of access.
  
  The facility is leased from the Tea Tree Gully Council.
  
  A number of OHSW issues at the centre have been addressed in recent years. However a significant number of benchmarking issues have been identified and require addressing ie. new kitchen facilities.
  
  The centre is in a high bushfire risk area and procedures for emergencies have been reviewed and are practiced regularly.

- **Capacity (per session)**

  30 children

- **Centre Ownership**

  The centre is a DECS facility housed within a building leased from Tea Tree Gully Council

- **Access for children and staff with disabilities**

  The centre has access via both carparks and a small ramp to our verandah. Inside the centre is flat, with wide doorways. Council is currently reviewing disability access and the provision of disabled toilet facilities.
6. Local Community

General characteristics:
- Kathleen Mellor is situated in the historic township of Tea Tree Gully, within the TEA TREE GULLY COUNCIL area. It is located adjacent to the Memorial Oval, and enjoys a park-like setting, with natural gum trees a shady feature of the outdoor area. Tea Tree Gully Primary School is within walking distance across the Oval.
- The kindergarten services the areas of St. Agnes, Tea Tree Gully, Banksia Park, Vista, as well as the hills area of Inglewood, Houghton and Paracombe.
- Children from the kindergarten mainly attend Tea Tree Gully Primary and nearby St. David’s School.
- Housing is mainly owner occupied, with some units and rental available.

Other local facilities
- The kindergarten is very close to the St Agnes Shopping Centre and has a bus stop outside the kindergarten on Perseverence Road which can transport families to the local shops, to Tea Tree Plaza and into the city.

Local Government
The kindergarten has a good relationship with the Tea Tree Gully Council who are the owners of the kindergarten building and maintenance issues are quickly resolved upon request. DECD facilities are also involved with the ongoing maintenance at the kindergarten.