

West Lakes Kindergarten and Early Childhood Centre



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

As at 2/2017

Centre number: 5653

Centre name: West Lakes Kindergarten and Early Childhood Centre



1. General information

Centre name	West Lakes Kindergarten and Early Childhood Centre
Centre number	5653
Postal address	294 Sportsmans Drive, West lakes, 5021
Location address	as above
	We are situated in the Eights Reserve on Sportsmans Drive. We are located behind a set of shops and bus stop is located near the shopping complex on Sportsmans Drive
Telephone number	8353 1282
Fax number	8355 0147
E-mail address	dl.5653.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
Preschool Director/Nominated Supervisor	Barbara Warren
DECS District	Western Adelaide
Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)	approx 10 kilometres West
Enrolment/Attendance	55
Co-located/stand-alone	Stand-alone Preschool

Programs operating

Our centre provides a Kindergarten Program and the DECD Speech and Language Program.

Kindergarten/Preschool Program

For the year before children start school,

- 2 Full days from 9 am to 3 pm,
- Plus a half-day session during the week

Group A Monday, Wednesday 9am to 3pm and a 3 hour session (Tuesday, Thursday or Friday morning)

Group B Tuesday, Thursday, 9am to 3pm and a 3 hour session (Fri morning or another session during the week where there is a vacancy)

- **DECD Speech and Language Program**

Therapy program for children with severe speech and language difficulties offered on a Monday and Wednesday and Tuesday morning for children that have been selected via application (Please see information sheet on the Speech and Language Program. Children are selected via criteria, application and selection panel.)

Bi-lingual Support

as required

- Preschool Support/Early Intervention

For children who need extra support to access the program or to support their learning.

2. Key Centre Policies

Core Values

Trust, Respect, Acceptance, Enjoyment, Responsibility, Equality, Commitment, Honesty, Care and support for self and others.

Centre Priorities

Meeting National Quality Standards to an exceeding level and using the following centre Philosophy to guide our practice;

Our Philosophy

LEARNING

Learning at West Lakes Kindergarten and ECC is about children engaging in positive and enjoyable **quality teaching and learning** activities and experiences that expand children's intellectual, physical, social, emotional and creative capacity in a play-based learning environment.

We believe that a child's **wellbeing** is central to their learning.

EVERY CHILD

Every child is **included** in our program and we believe and **support children's need** including their strengths and needs including social, cultural, linguistic diversity. We respect and value fairness and justice for all.

ALL EDUCATORS

That we work **collaboratively** with optimism, persistence, enjoyment and accountability to support children and their families.

We believe in a **curriculum** that supports children's lifelong learning that expands and develops their prior skills and abilities.

RELATIONSHIPS and WELLBEING

We believe in building **positive, nurturing and respectful relationships** with children and their families, as it is vital to children's learning and their wellbeing.

We believe in providing a **positive and supportive environment** that caters for **all** children, their families and we have a strong belief and focus on **Growth Mindset**.

NEW LEARNING

We will continually seek ways to **improve** our knowledge and understanding for children and meet the needs of children, families, staff and the community. We have a focus on **skilful learning** and **S.T.E.A.M** (Science Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) and Literacy

We will do this by,

- Providing a safe, caring and interesting **environment**: which is supported by professional, enthusiastic and **caring staff** and by developing partnerships with parents, families and the community
- Providing a curriculum that is in a play based, early childhood setting—that is engaging, is age appropriate, is inclusive and meets the needs of children.
- We use the National **Early Years Learning Framework – Belonging, Being and Becoming**, to plan, assess, report and gather information on children's learning
- We will meet the National Quality Standards to an 'exceeding' level.

3. Curriculum

- **National Quality Framework**
- **Early Years Learning Framework** - Belonging, Being and Becoming
- Curriculum is developed in partnership with children and families through a **play-based program**.
- Methodology includes: social construction of knowledge, scaffolding and intentional teaching.
- Focus – Wellbeing and **Growth Mindset** including the 'You Can Do It' Program
- **S.T.E.A.M.** – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics
- DECD **Literacy and Numeracy** Strategy and Indicators
- **Respect, Reflect, Relate**- Assessing for Learning and Development In the Early Years Using Observation Scales

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
- Integrated DECD Speech and Language Program
- Preschool Support Program

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
- Currently staffed with 1.0 Director (PSD3),
- 1.0 Teacher,
- 1.0 ECW 1,
- 0.1 ECW2,
- 0.6 Speech and Language Support Teacher,
- 0.4 Speech Pathologist,
- Pre-school support worker (hours allocated on children's needs)
- We operate a Performance Development Program for all our staff members

- Access to special support staff
- Preschool Support Staff and access to DECD Support services including Speech Pathologist, Psychologist, Social Worker
- Other
- The centre works closely with the Early Childhood Support Services Team

○ **5. Centre Facilities**

- Centre Ownership
- The Kindergarten is situated at the rear of a small shopping complex on Sportsman Drive near Trimmer Parade. The centre adjoins a park which leads to the lake. Access to the centre is by foot through the reserve known as West Lakes Green on Sportsmans Drive or by foot around the lake from the Inlet Reserve car park on Trimmer Parade.
- The grounds are recently landscaped with a focus on nature play and has a number of shaded areas. Fixed equipment consists of a large sand pit with shade, a watercourse leading to the sandpit, shaded swing and climbing areas, cubby house, large storage shed, a play platform, vegetable gardens and a grassed area. A separate fenced area and veranda with blinds is used for the Occasional Care program. A large all weather veranda with blinds is situated across the front of the building.
- Facilities have been upgraded in 2009 and new fencing and landscaping completed in 2012 and upgraded outdoor nature play space in 2016.

6. Local Community

- General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments)
- Most parents are in the paid work force and a high proportion have both parents in full or part time paid work as well as some who are studying, Some children also attend childcare centres, family day care or are in regular care with friends or extended family members. A proportion of children come from third or fourth generation Italian families. Most of the children live in close proximity to the centre except for children who access the DECD Speech and Language Program that are chosen from a panel selection process.
- There is a high level of parent and community involvement in the preschool and an active Parent Management Committee.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
- Currently approximately 17 feeder schools the majority going to Grange Primary School, Star of the Sea and other local public and private schools.
- Other local care and educational facilities, eg child care, schools, OSHC
- The nearest Primary School is Grange Primary School. The closest child care is Seaton Community Child Care.