PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: May 2016

Centre number: 4686
Centre name: Pasadena Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Sue Klar
- Postal address: 39 Cash Grove, Pasadena 5042
- Location address: 39 Cash Grove, Pasadena 5042
- DECD Partnership: Mitcham Plains
- Geographical location – 10kms south of Adelaide GPO (km). Our Kindergarten is located in the park surrounded by Fiveash Drive, Cash Grove and Branson Boulevard. The children and families enter the Kindergarten through the gates on Branson Boulevard.
- Telephone number: 08 8277 4623
- Fax number: 08 8277 8705
- Preschool website address: www.pasadenakgn.sa.edu.au
• Preschool e-mail address : DL.4686_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

• Enrolment/Attendance
The children attending in their eligible year are part of one of two groups:
The Koala group attends Monday and Tuesday all day & Wednesday morning
The Magpie Group attends Wednesday afternoon, Thursday & Friday all day.
All day sessions operate from 8.45 a.m. to 2.55 p.m.
Wednesday morning session 8.45 – 11.30 a.m.
Wednesday Afternoon session 12.10 – 2.55 p.m.

This year we have an enrolment of 63 children: 32 children in the Koala Group
and 31 in the Magpie Group.

**Early Entry sessions:** children with special needs may be able to commence
Kindergarten early by attending a 2.5 hour session for 8 weeks in Term 4.
This can include children who speak limited English. Availability of Early Entry
is dependent on the individual child’s particular needs and the availability of
positions.
Priority of access is given to the full time children in their eligible year.

**Orientation Visits:** children will be invited to attend 2 X 2 hour Orientation
Sessions in the November prior to them commencing Full time Kindergarten in
January.

**Bilingual Support:** we have a rich cultural heritage at Pasadena Kindergarten
with many of our children and families speaking English as a Second
Language. This year we have 16 languages spoken by the families in our
community. We currently have 5 Bilingual Workers who work with the children
3 hours per week to support them in their own language and support them as
they adjust to an English speaking community.

**DECD Support Services:** Children with special needs are supported by a
team of Support Service providers including a Disability Coordinator, Speech
Pathologist and Psychologist. Parents need to discuss their child’s particular
needs with the Director.
2. Key Centre Policies

Philosophy Statement reviewed March 2016

We believe that:

- Every child is a unique individual
- Every child brings with them a family and cultural heritage which we should value and embrace
- The most powerful way that children learn is through play
- Children need the freedom and encouragement to explore their interests and become self motivated learners
- Children need the opportunity to develop life skills which will enable them to thrive in an ever changing world

The children at Pasadena Kindergarten will be supported and encouraged to develop competencies to enhance their learning and development. That is their:

- Self Confidence
- Emotional Resilience
- Social Confidence
- Self Motivation
- Persistence
- Resourcefulness

The Educators will:

- Provide a program that is inclusive and meets the diverse needs of all children
- Work in partnership with parents as the child’s educators
- Assess and support the individual learning, development and level of well being of children through interaction, observation and record keeping
- Plan experiences and activities that allow children to
  - build their knowledge and develop their thinking skills and understandings
  - enhance their social, emotional and creative development
  - build their physical competencies
- Provide an environment that is safe and welcoming for all.

3. Curriculum

Curriculum planning is based on the Early Years Learning Framework which embraces the view that “children’s lives are characterised by Belonging, Being and Becoming: Belonging acknowledges children’s interdependence with others. Being recognises the significance of the here and now in children’s lives. Becoming reflects this process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as young children learn and grow”

From The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

The Indicators of Preschool Literacy and Numeracy are woven into the curriculum planning and reporting.
Our Quality Improvement Plan defines how we are seeking to further improve our practice. These plans include the use of the Respect, Reflect, Relate Observation methods where the staff observe the children’s Involvement, Wellbeing, Relationships and the Active Learning Environment and then plan for and implement new strategies to improve outcomes for the children’s learning and development.

The staff team work in partnership with parents to provide for high quality learning and development opportunities for each child. The staff present an Individual Learning Plan for each child to their parents in an informal interview, maintain Individual Learning books describing children’s learning and involvement and provide a Summative Report at the end of the child’s year at Kindergarten. Parents are kept informed of learning goals and their outcomes in newsletters and reports to Governing Council. Parents are encouraged to talk with staff at any time about their child’s progress.

The National Quality Standards provides a framework to establish, assess and improve the quality of our Preschool Service.

Our Kindergarten was assessed by the Education and Early Childhood Services Registration and Standards Board of SA in August 2013.

We were found to be Exceeding National Quality Standards.
4. Centre Based Staff

Staff Profile

Director: 1.0 (full time)
Teacher: 1.0 (full time)
Universal Access Teacher: 0.4
Early Childhood Worker: 1.0
Universal Access ECW: 0.2

In addition to the core staff team the Kindergarten employs Bilingual Workers, Preschool Support Workers and a Lunch Care Worker to support the children’s specific needs.

5. Centre Facilities

Pasadena Kindergarten is set on spacious grounds in a natural park setting. Native birds and koalas are frequent visitors and it provides a cool shady environment in the summer with a large enclosed outdoor area for the winter months.

Families using Pasadena Kindergarten come from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds providing a rich multi cultural experience for those children attending.

The building is spacious, well lit and well maintained with a number of different learning areas available for use. A separate locker room allows children to keep belongings in an easily accessible area, protected from the weather. Large windows on the northern side of the building allow the children to enjoy the outdoors from inside the building.

The Kindergarten is close to the Pasadena Shopping Centre and local bus routes.

Capacity (per session) 33 children

The Kindergarten is built on Mitcham Council land. The staff works with Governing Council, Mitcham Council and the DECD Facilities Management to maintain the Kindergarten grounds and buildings to a high standard. Maintenance of the building and grounds is carried out through the DECD Assets Management Plan. Mitcham Council takes responsibility for the maintenance of trees and footpaths.
6. **Local Community**

The Pasadena Kindergarten Governing Council is made up of interested parents who work with the staff to make improvements and maintain the Kindergarten as a place of high quality learning for 4 and 5 year old children. The Governing Council meets twice a term on a Tuesday evening.

Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool include Clapham Primary School, Bellevue Heights Primary School, Edwardstown Primary School, Clovelly Park Primary School, Colonel Light Gardens Primary and several private schools in the surrounding area including St Bernadette’s School and St Therese Catholic School.

The Child and Youth Health nurse visits the Kindergarten each term to provide 4 year old health checks for the Kindergarten children.

Pasadena Kindergarten is part of the Mitcham Plains Partnership of Schools and Preschools. The Partnership meets twice a term to work together on its goal of providing high quality learning and development opportunities for all young people in our schools and preschools.