

# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 25/1/17

**Centre number:** 3615

**Centre name:** Chandlers Hill Kindergarten

## 1. General information

Director - Rachel Douglass

Teachers – Sandra Kidsley & Helen Miller

ECW's – Tania Paterson & Rachael Bridgeman

Pre-school support – Anna Wong and Anna Burton

Location address: 2 Education Road, Happy Valley, 5159

Telephone number: 8381 7493

Fax number: 8322 8761

e-mail address: dl.3615.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

DECD Region: Southern Adelaide Region (South Valley Precinct Partnership)

Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 28 kms

Enrolment/Attendance: Currently 64 full time children enrolled

Co-located/stand-alone: Stand alone.

### **Programs operating at the kindergarten**

#### **Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children**

Our sessional kindergarten has changed to include the provisions under the Commonwealth agreement for Universal access. We offer children two full days one week and three the following from 9:00-3:00pm to ensure that children receive their full 15 hours a week entitlement. We have two set groups of children Group 1 – Monday, Wednesday and alternate Fridays and Group 2 – Tuesday, Thursday and alternate Fridays. The cost is \$170 per term.

#### **Orientation visits**

Two visits in term 4 prior to commencement of full time kindy in following year. Cost – NIL.

#### **Transition visits**

We have a transition program to school for all of the children. The children visit their older Buddy class at HVPS for STEM activities fortnightly throughout the year on a Friday. Each group of children also visit Happy Valley PS reception classes each term and the

reception classes also visit us termly to keep an ongoing relationship for the children who have left us and gone off to school. This is a two-year transition process for the children that go to HVPS. For those children who move on to one of our other 17 feeder schools it still provides an insight to what school is like, how a school is set out and breaks down some of the mystery and anxiety.

### **Preschool Support**

Preschool support programs are available to assist children with additional needs. All children attending our kindergarten are monitored and if there are concerns regarding their speech and or language they are referred to our DECD speech pathologist for an assessment. If there are any other developmental concerns, we will work together and refer you to appropriate services for assistance.

### **Bilingual Support**

May be available for those children who do not speak English and is organised as required. It is funded by DECD.

## **2. Key Centre Policies**

### **Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose**

***Encouraging and challenging children to reach their full potential***  
***Teaching children to value and respect themselves and others***  
***Fostering children's sense of curiosity, experimentation, wonder and exploration***  
***Celebrating children's achievements and promoting new challenges***

At Chandlers Hill Kindergarten we deliver a high quality learning program that develops effective communication, social and thinking skills for all children.

We strive to develop and maintain strong positive relationships with all of our children, their families and local community. We provide a warm, welcoming and nurturing environment that is aesthetically pleasing, inviting and stimulating.

We place a great emphasis on play-based learning as the way young children learn best, and strong reciprocal relationships with educators support this. Our aim is to provide a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment that accommodates and embraces differences. We have a strong connection to the local community which also ensures a successful program.

We believe is challenging all children to further develop their skills, abilities and capabilities. Children's interests and opinions are central to our curriculum.

## Lifelong learners

### 3. Curriculum

- Framework used
  - : Early Years Learning Framework – Belonging, Being & Becoming
- Core Values
  - Children learn best through play/activity based experiences.
  - Build self-esteem, self-confidence, independence and resilience.
  - Empower children's protective behaviour skills.
  - Develop children's life skills and competencies.
  - Encourage respect for others and the environment.
  - Provide an environment which is safe, warm, caring, nurturing, welcoming, happy and supportive.
  - Provide an environment inclusive of gender, culture, social economic status, age and the differently abled.
  - Protect and develop our children's natural curiosity.
  - Encourage problem solving and critical thinking.
  - Encourage joy in learning and discovery.
- Specific curriculum approaches
  - A play based, planned and emergent curriculum responsive to children's construction of learning.
  
  - Reggio Emilia approaches including: utilising the environment as "the third teacher" and a focus on meaningful documentation.
  
  - Early Literacy Learning Strategy – a family literacy focus and early literacy learning: talking and reading together.
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
  - Strengthening transition links with our nearest local school.
  - Linking to the community by developing partnerships at programs with Happy Valley Primary School, Happy Valley OSHC, Stepping Stones Childcare, Bethsalem Aged Care, Aberfoyle Hub Library and Blue Dolphin Swimming Centre

## 4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile 2017
  - Funded for: 1.0 director, 1:0 Full Time teacher, 1:0 Early Childhood Worker and 0.4 Universal access
- Performance Management Program: Yes.
- Access to special support staff: Yes.

## 5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  - We have a beautiful old building which used to be the old Happy Valley School house (along with many modern additions). Including 3 split air conditioning systems, gas space heaters, wooden floorboard look lino, refurbished bathroom facilities. Our kindergarten provides a wonderful warm welcoming feel with a home-like group of rooms. It is set amongst a large, well-kept and attractive garden which is both a place of beauty and one which encourages exploration and interaction. The layout of our kindergarten provides children the space they need to provoke their curiosity, challenge their physicality, have the freedom and room to move, spend time with others but also find quiet places for relaxation and calm.
- Capacity (32 per session): each session currently has 32 children.
  - Centre Ownership: DECD.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: Available and has also been a consideration in garden development.

### OTHER

- We have a very large garden which provides lots of area for children to find their own space. We have lots of trees, plants, vegetable garden, grassed area, large sandpit, slide, cubby house, kindy creek (which is manmade and only contains water when teachers turn it on), lots of challenging climbing structures and equipment.
- We have lots of shade in the form of trees and verandas and in 2016 a second shade structure was built.
- There is also an outside toilet block
- The kindergarten has a carpark.

- A strong sense of and practical liaison exists with Happy Valley School across the road. This partnership supports kindergarten and school links in a very positive manner even though not all children move on to that school.
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## 6. Further Comments

### Out of Kindy hours Care

Our four and five-year old children have access to Happy Valley PS Out of School Hours Care located on the grounds of HVPS (directly across the road). Care is available Mon-Fri during school term and throughout the school holidays. Before kindy care is available from 7-9am and after kindy care from 3-6:15pm. Vacation care (during the school holidays) is available from 7am-6:15pm Mon-Fri and all fees are eligible for child care benefit and child care rebate. The staff will bring children to us in the morning and help them get organised and settled in and then come to collect them in the afternoon. This has been working successfully since May 2012 when the arrangement was made.

STEPPING STONES CHILD CARE CENTRE –on Chandlers Hill Road Happy Valley (between the new Health/Fitness Centre and the Dolphin Swim Centre) opened in 2009 – with 20 places for four-year old children. The Kindergarten staff work hard to keep an effective relationship with the Stepping Stones staff. The child care centre brings kindy children to us on Tuesdays and Thursdays only and picks them back up again after kindy finishes.

### Partnership/incorporation arrangements with other groups:

We visit Happy Valley PS weekly on a Friday (fortnightly for the children) to spend time with our Buddy class on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We also have regular interaction with HVPS reception classes each term which continues an ongoing relationship and transition program for children who have moved on to HVPS and for our current kindy children to get to know what a school is all about.

We have a strong connection with our local library - The Hub Library – and Jacqui comes out between once and twice a year to share her love of stories and songs with the children.

We visit Bethsalam Aged Care Facility to sing songs to the elderly.