

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 7/6/23

Centre number: 3615

Centre name: Chandlers Hill Kindergarten

1. General information

- Centre name
: Chandlers Hill Kindergarten
- Centre number
: 3615
- Preschool Director - Rachel Douglass
Teacher –Helen Miller, Krystal Kilgallon & Lyn Smart
ECW – Tania Paterson & Debbie Dale
Pre-school support – Geetha Vadakkuta & Debbie Dale
- Postal address
: 2 Education Road, Happy Valley, 5159
- Location address
: As above
- Telephone number
: 8381 7493
- e-mail address
: dl.3615.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- DECS Region
: Southern Adelaide Region
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
: 28 kms
- Enrolment/Attendance
: Currently 56 full time children enrolled
- Co-located/stand-alone
: Stand alone.

- Programs operating
 - ❖ Transition visits
 - Three visits in term 4 prior to commencement of full time kindy in following year. Cost - NIL.
 - ❖ Kindergarten for eligible children
 - STAFFING: 1 x 1.0 Preschool Director 1x 0.7 Teacher, 1x0.6 Teacher, 1 x 0.3 Teacher
1 x 0.8 Early Childhood Worker 1x0.2 Early Childhood Worker
 - We are funded to operate MONDAY –FRIDAY
 - Actual session times 9:00AM-3:00PM
 - The fees are \$190 for preschool & \$200 in term one which includes a hat.
 - ❖ Bilingual Support
 - Organised when required – DfE funded
 - ❖ Preschool Support
 - Organised when needed and approved by DfE Support and Wellbeing Service – DfE funded.
 - Kindergarten funding allows for some extra support for children who do not qualify for Government Grant monies
- Partnerships 21 status
 - : P21.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose
 1. Delivering a high quality learning program:
 - The development of effective communication, social and thinking skills for all children.
 2. Raise standards:
 - Use Early Years Learning Framework (Belonging, Being & Becoming) as a curriculum tool in planning, monitoring, assessing and reporting practices.
 - Using the Respect, Reflect, Relate resource to assess for learning and development in the early years using observation scales.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used
 - : Early Years Learning Framework – Belonging, Being & Becoming
 - Preschool numeracy and literacy indicators
- Core Values
 - Children learn best through play and learning based experiences.
 - Build self esteem, self confidence and independence.
 - 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, Stepping Stones Childcare, Bethsalem Aged Care, Aberfoyle Hub Library and Blue Dolphin Swimming Centre.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile 2023
 - Funded for: 1.0 director, 1:6 teacher & 1.0 Early Childhood Worker

Site funded additional 0.5 for Early childhood worker so that we have 3 staff at all times due to large building & yard.

- Performance Management Program
: Yes.
- Access to special support staff
: Yes.
- Other
: Nil.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
Building is the old Happy Valley School house with modern additions. Including 3 split air conditioning systems, gas space heaters, wooden floorboard look lino, new carpet, additional shade structures, refurbished bathroom facilities. This home-like group of rooms is set in a well-kept and attractive garden which is both a place of beauty and one which encourages exploration and interaction.
- Capacity (55 total)
: Group 1 currently has 27 children & Group 2 currently has 28 children

Centre Ownership
: DfE.
- 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 man made 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 verandahs and in 2016 a second shade structure was built.
- We have upgraded our kindy creek, our digging pit, had some large bluestone stepping stones installed and created a natural cubby building area in February 2022.
- There is also an outside toilet block
- The kindergarten has an upgraded carpark.
- A strong sense of community 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. It provides a full 2-year transition program for children that attend HVPS as they continue to visit us throughout their reception year.

6. Further Comments

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 and picks them back up again after kindy finishes.

As of May, 2012 families are able to utilise the OSHC facility at Happy Valley Primary School for both before and after kindy care, every day of the week. They also provide school holiday care.

Partnership/incorporation arrangements with other groups:

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

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

Child and Youth health four-year old checks twice a year.

Lift the lip dental checks one a year.

Interactions with our local community such as police officers, ambulance officers, CFS volunteers.