

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated 1/3/2016

Centre number: 6651

Centre name: Port Augusta West Childhood Services Centre

1. General information

- Centre name
: Port Augusta West Childhood Services Centre
- Centre number
: 6651
- Preschool Director
: Mrs Deb Martin
- Postal address
: PO Box 3107, Port Augusta West SA 5700
- Location address
: 1a Stokes Tce, Port Augusta West SA 5700
- Telephone number
:(08) 8642 4125
- Fax number
:(08) 8642 6218
- e-mail address
:Deborah.martin116@schools.sa.edu.au
- DECS District
: Port Augusta/Whyalla/ Far North Partnership
- Geographical location – i.e. road distance from GPO (km)
: 308km
- Enrolment/Attendance
: current enrolment - 56
- Co-located/stand-alone
: Stand alone
- Programs operating
 - ∞ Pre Entry
: yes term 4 prior to starting following year

- ⊗ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
 - : Yes
 - Morning Sessions 8:30am-11:30am (Monday-Friday)
 - Afternoon Sessions 12:00pm-3:00pm (Monday-Thursday)
 - Full days available

- ⊗ Occasional Care (indicate whether funded or unfunded)
 - : NO
- ⊗ Extended Care
 - : NO
- ⊗ Lunch/Full Day Program
 - : Yes,
 - \$3.50 lunchcare fee
- ⊗ Bilingual Support
 - : YES upon referral process. We have received Bilingual Support for Cantonese, Vietnamese, French, and Nigerian
- ⊗ Preschool Support
 - : YES upon referral process preschool support is provided for children with additional needs

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose
 - : Our centre has a strong focus on the development of children through a play-based curriculum. This means providing children with various opportunities to explore, experiment, improvise and build on existing knowledge through a hands-on approach to learning.
 - We are committed to increasing parental involvement by making the centre an open and welcoming place for families.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: EYLF
 - : BELONGING, BEING & BECOMING, The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (DEEWR 2009)
 - Respect, Reflect, Relate Document (DECD 2008)
 - Literacy and numeracy Indicators (DECD 2105)
- Core Values
 - : We currently use a Social Skills programme, which strongly concentrates on the concepts of *Confidence, Persistence, Resilience, Organisation and Getting Along with each other*

We are currently in the process of redefining our core values and statement of philosophy for the centre.

- **Specific curriculum approaches**

: All children at our site are given the opportunity to engage in active learning experiences. They can do this through social interaction with their peers, ongoing care and support from their educators and a sense of pride and confidence in their own wellbeing.

In the Early Years setting curriculum means “all the interactions, experiences, activities, routines and events, planned and unplanned, that occur in an environment designed to foster children’s learning and development” (Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework (DEEWR 2009).

A variety of learning styles are catered for within the centre. Children are involved in large group activities, small group activities, focus group activities and 1:1 activities with staff members and their peers.

With a strong belief that all children are capable learners and have prior knowledge and experiences, we believe in building on this further within the centre by providing children opportunities to self-regulate their learning, make choices to suit their learning styles, and form positive social interactions with their peers and adults.

- **Joint programmes/special curriculum projects**

:We work closely with our neighbouring Primary School, Port Augusta West Primary School, to provide a more seamless transition for children and families when moving on to school. This includes transition visits, informal visits to the school’s library, involvement and attendance at school assemblies etc. We believe that a close connection with the school supports children and families with the overall transition process.

We have had numerous children enrolled at the centre who have specific learning and physical needs, so we often use this as a focus to promote acceptance and caring environments amongst the children and staff.

Children are taught basic sign language (AUSLAN) within the day to day running of the centre.

4. Centre Based Staff

- **Staff Profile**

: Director 1.0

Teacher 1.0

ECW 0.5

Universal Access Teacher 0.2

- Performance Management Program
 - : Yes, all staff are involved in individual Performance Management Meeting at least once per term.
 - Staff focus on Partnership priorities, Centre priorities and their own personal needs in developing their Performance Plans.
- Access to special support staff
 - : Through Preschool Support Funding and Disability Services, we are able to employ Early Childhood Workers (ECW's) to work at the site to support children with additional needs.
 - We also work closely with other agencies such as the local Community Health Service, Autism SA, Disability SA, Kilparrin and Novita when the need arises.
- Other
 - :

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
 - : The centre consists of a large and inviting building that consists of 2 large carpeted areas, as well as wet areas.
 - The outdoor environment is very welcoming with 2 large shaded playgrounds, swing set, shaded sandpit, bike track, outdoor eating area and a large verandah providing plenty of shade and shelter.
- Capacity (per session)
 - : 45
- Centre Ownership
 - : DECD
- Access for children and staff with disabilities
 - : Yes – ramps, double doors, changing facilities, wheelchair access
- Other
 - :

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments)
 - : Regional Centre for Northern town of Roxby Downs. Leigh Creek, Woomera, Hawker. Quorn. Many families have 1 partner working away or working shift-work within the town of Port Augusta.
 - High Government employment rate via various departments.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
 - : Parents are always welcome in the centre. Occassionally parents and community members volunteer their time to run activities with the children. Parents and family carers assist with supervision when excursions are arranged, support the Governing Council, assist at the centre with jobs such as cleaning at the end of the day, and repair work.
 - Due to the high number of parents who work, we have the privilege of contact with many grandparents who come to pick up and drop off children. We embrace this and hold “Grandparent and Special Person” Days to celebrate these family bonds.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
 - : Port Augusta West Primary School
 - : Caritas College
- Other local care and educational facilities, e.g. child care, schools, OSHC
 - : We are located within walking distance of Port Augusta West Primary School, Caritas College and Bubble and Squeak Childcare Centre.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
 - : Modern shopping facilities providing a range of services
- Other local facilities, e.g. medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational
 - : Wide range of these services available
- Availability of staff housing
 - : Limited Government housing available upon application for staff
- Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality
 - : Air travel is available 5 days per week and bus services run daily
- Local Government body (name, phone number), availability of publications describing the local area (with source, cost), characteristics, level of involvement
 - : Port Augusta City Council: (08) 8641 9100
 - The local newspaper, “The Transcontinental” is published on a weekly basis and sells for \$1.70
 - Numerous free and priced publications are available from the Tourism Centre at Wadlata, The Port Augusta City Council and the SA Tourism Centre in Adelaide.

7. Further Comments

- Establishment of new services and/or programs
 - : In 2009, the centre began offering all Preschool children 15hrs per week of preschool, under the Universal Access initiative. This allowed us to offer all children 1 extra session per week, as well as employ another teacher for 1 day per week.
- Partnership/incorporation arrangements with other groups
 - : The Centre works very collaboratively with all of the Port Augusta and Quorn Preschools and the Directors and school Principals meet on a regular basis.
 - The centre liaises with all schools, endeavouring to make connections to ensure effective and smooth transitions for children starting school.