Centre number: 6527
Centre name: McArthur Park Kindergarten

1. General information

Preschool Director: Nikki Kirkland
Postal address: P.O. Box 687 Millicent 5280
Location address: McRostie St Millicent 5280
DECD Partnership: South East Coast and Vines
Geographical location – 405 from Adelaide GPO
Telephone number: 87332462
Fax number: 87332429
Preschool website address: http://www.mcarthurkgn.sa.edu.au/
Preschool e-mail address: dl.6527.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

Enrolment/Attendance:
Enrolments for 2014: 28
Average attendance over the past 5 years has varied from 40’s as a full-time centre back to low/mid 30’s as a part time centre
Co-located/stand-alone: Stand-alone centre

Programs operating at the preschool
Pre Entry
: Integrated into the sessions
Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children - Universal Access
: Eligible children attend on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. We provide flexibility in access to families and children to best meet their needs. Some children access two full days, others attend 5 full days per fortnight and many attend for two full days and one half day.
Extended Care
: An extension of time at kindergarten and early entry are available to children with additional needs.
Lunch/Full Day Program
: Lunch care is available every day of operation. Staff are responsible for children during this time.
Lunch Care worker provided as needed

Preschool Support for children with additional needs is available
2. Key Centre Policies

Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

Statement of Purpose
At McArthur Park Kindergarten our core business is to provide a quality developmental and educational programme for preschool children, which caters for the individual needs of each child and enhances all aspects of their development in a safe, nurturing and active learning environment.

Centre Priorities
1: Providing a play-based curriculum based on children's interests
2: Developing children’s language and communication needs
3: Supporting children’s social and emotional development
4: Developing positive, respectful relationships with children and families

Curriculum

Framework used: The Early Years Learning Framework ‘Belonging, Being, Becoming’ for children from birth to five years. This is a comprehensive guide to develop learning programs responsive to children’s ideas, interests, strengths and abilities and based on the vision of play-based learning that is engaging and builds success for life.

Core Values
Our team is committed to the wellbeing of each child and acknowledges the uniqueness of each individual. We are committed to the belief that young children learn best through play, therefore we strive to provide a safe, nurturing and active learning environment that promotes children’s engagement in a variety of learning experiences where they can explore, discover, collaborate and communicate.

The curriculum principles, practices and policies of the centre are inclusive and adhere to the principles of social justice, equity and accessibility. We are committed to developing positive relationships and working in partnership with all stakeholders. Through critical reflection we strive for continuous improvement and innovation. Our commitment to quality is promoted through a belief in the following values: Care  Respect  Persistence

Joint programmes: School transition program with local schools
4. Centre Based Staff

Staff Profile
: Director Band A [0.6]
: Teacher [0.6] Permanent
: Early Childhood Worker (0.6) Contract
: Preschool Support Workers are employed on a needs basis.

Access to special support staff
: Regular visits by DECD Speech Pathologist and Disability Coordinator

Other
: Community services accessed as required

Performance Development Program
: Continuous critical reflection and the development of skills through T&D. Staff are encouraged to participate in shared leadership through leading areas of Improvement in our Quality Improvement Plan. Performance Development is regularly reviewed.

5. Centre Facilities

Buildings and grounds
: Established in 1959. The building consists of 2 large activity rooms, a library, kitchen, small office and toilet area and locker room. The main activity room opens onto an enclosed verandah area. The garden is large and attractively landscaped. There is an amphitheatre with a shade sail.

Capacity (per session): 30 children per session.

Centre Ownership
: The Governing Council (management committee) own the freehold.

Access for children and staff with disabilities
: Wheelchair access is possible – ramp to main entrance doors and toilet.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments)
: Millicent is a rural town with a population of approximately 5000. It is a diverse socioeconomic community, with some ‘at risk’ families from a low socio-economic background. Most families are from an Anglo Saxon background. A small percentage of children at the centre are from an Aboriginal, Asian or European background.
Kimberley-Clark Australia employs many in the town. The majority of families are employed in service industries. The Millicent and District Hospital is the largest employer.

Parent and community involvement in the preschool
Parents are encouraged to participate at whatever level they are able to manage.
Parents run playgroup on Friday mornings.
Through our program we link up with a wide range of community services and provide opportunities for children and families to develop strong connections with services offered within the town.

Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: Newbery Park Primary School and St Anthony’s Catholic School.

Other local care and educational facilities: Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre, Millicent North Primary School, Millicent High school.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: There are 3 supermarkets and a variety of shops and services. Millicent is only 50kms away from Mt. Gambier which is a large regional town with many facilities.

Other local facilities: Sport plays a big part in the social life of the town. There are several service clubs and an Italian club. A swimming lake and large regional Library provide recreation for families. There is a Medical Clinic and Hospital.

Availability of staff housing: rental accommodation available

Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport:
There is a bus service to Adelaide and Mt. Gambier. There is an airport at Mt. Gambier.

Local Government: Contact Wattle Range Council on 87332177 for more information.
Establishment of new services and/or programs
: The kindergarten is currently working closely with families, children and our local community to further develop our sustainable practices. Educators are continually reflecting and developing strategies to make learning and site improvement visible to families and the community. In 2014 we initiated a site Facebook page which has proven to be a valuable communication tool.

Partnership/incorporation arrangements with other groups
: The Director participates regularly in meetings and staff development with the South East Coast and Vines partnership group. There is also a Millicent and District Leader’s Hub that meets twice a term. All staff are encouraged to participate in professional learning communities to further develop their knowledge and expertise.