PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 2691
Centre name: Gawler East Preschool

1. General information
   • Preschool Director - Sandra Ball
   • Postal address - PO Box 551 Willaston SA 5118
   • Location address - 1 Finch Road Gawler East SA 5118
   • DECD Partnership - Greater Gawler
   • Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km) - 40km
   • Telephone number - 08 8523 0166
   • Fax number - 08 8523 0877
   • Preschool website address - http://www.gawlerpre.sa.edu.au/
   • Preschool e-mail address dl.2691.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
• Enrolment/Attendance
Gawler East Preschool average enrolment is in the mid to high 70’s. We have an above state average attendance rate of around 89% based on current data collection methods.

• Co-located/stand-alone
Gawler east Preschool is a Stand-alone preschool located adjacent to the Gawler East Primary School and Gawler Community Child Care Centre.

• Programs operating at the preschool
  • Preschool for eligible children- Universal Access, 15 hours per week of preschool for eligible children currently accessed by a 30 hour fortnight
  • Occasional Care- *Not available*
  • Associated Programs- *Not available*
  • Lunch/Full Day Program -Monday to Thursday
  • Bilingual Support –for eligible children as required
  • Preschool Support-for eligible children as required

2. Key Centre Policies
• Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

CORE BUSINESS
Our Core Business is to provide a stimulating and quality educational program for eligible preschool children. This will be done in a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment, in which the key focus is the individual child. Children’s individuality is recognised and celebrated, as we provide for and respond to, individual needs.
A positive self-concept is considered crucial to a child’s development and we are committed to promoting each child’s feeling of self-worth.

OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES
The Preschool will operate in an organised and professional manner. Staff, volunteers and council members will speak with one voice and operate within the values and beliefs of the preschool, supported by Preschool policies and procedures. The well-being and learning needs of the children will be the primary consideration in
all decision making. The Preschool will build a supportive preschool environment which values diversity and promotes as essential: care, respect and co-operation. The Preschool will aspire to a culture of inquiry for improvement and best practice and have clear direction and agreements.

3. **Curriculum**
   - Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework
   - Core Values
     **VALUES:**
     - Supportive, positive and respectful relationships
     - a focus on wellbeing of all
     - a focus on quality, improvement and best practice
     - open, honest and collaborative communication

     **BELIEFS about LEARNING:**
     Children are more engaged in their learning when they
     - feel safe and valued
     - have positive relationships with their teachers and peers
     - have FUN

     We strengthen this through a focus on best practice and improvement and strive to provide
     - a curriculum which is innovative, challenging, rigorous, relevant to the child’s life experiences and connected to their world
     - a curriculum that employs a range of learning processes which consider the individual needs of the child
     - a supportive, positive and stimulating learning environment

   - Specific curriculum approaches
     Preschool uses “Topics” approach as well as “Children’s needs and interests” Child Protection Curriculum is implemented.

   - Joint programmes/special curriculum projects- N/A

4. **Centre Based Staff**
   - Staff Profile
     Currently 1 Director (full time), 3 part time teachers, and 3 part time ECWs
• Performance Management Program
Staff are involved in ongoing formal and informal Performance Management Program.

• Access to special support staff
Support staff are available for eligible children.

• Other
Preschool Support staff and bilingual support staff are appointed when required.

5. Centre Facilities
• Buildings and grounds
Gawler East Preschool is a well maintained 20+ year old building. It has recently undergone renovations to improve noise reverberation and acoustics to assist hearing impaired students.
The grounds have established trees and shade structures to provide for access to this area in all seasons.

• Capacity (per session)
The preschool can accommodate 52 children per session.

• Centre Ownership
Gawler East Preschool is owned by DECD

• Access for children and staff with disabilities
Wheelchair access is available.

• Other

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)
• General characteristics:
Gawler East is in a residential area, located 2km from the commercial centre of Gawler. It is in “close” proximity to more rural living, servicing areas such as Kalbeeba, Rosedale, Cockatoo Valley and Sandy Creek. It continues to experience increase in population with a new housing development due to start shortly nearby.

The majority of enrolments are Anglo-Saxon 2 parent home purchasers; however this is changing over time so that we are experiencing more shared and single parent families. Many families use some form of care – Community Child Care, Private Child Care or Family Day Care as well as informal child care with friends and relatives.
Around 25% of children attend the neighbouring Child Care Centre, and 50% go on to enrol at the local public Primary school. Remaining enrolments attend mostly Independent schools nearby.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
  The Governing council usually consists of up to 12 members

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
  Around 50% of enrolments transfer to Gawler East Primary with the remainder mostly attending Immanuel Lutheran Primary School, Trinity College, or St.Brigids Catholic Primary schools.

- Other local care and educational facilities,
  Gawler Community Child Care centre provides a drop off and pick up service to the preschool, as it is situated immediately adjacent to the preschool.
  OHSC is available at the local school. Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

- Other local facilities
  Gawler shopping precinct is only 2 km from the preschool and there is a small group of shops nearby. The preschool is in close proximity to a medical centre and Health Service, and has access to all the facilities the booming town of Gawler has to offer.

- Availability of staff housing
  Government Employee housing is not available. Private Rental and Housing SA Homes are available.

- Accessibility
  There is a regular bus service that links the preschool with Gawler central. A rail service is available from Gawler to Adelaide.

- Local Government
  The local council is The Town of Gawler.

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups
  The preschool works collaboratively with other preschools in the local partnership, particularly around professional learning.