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
   - DECS Region Barossa Region
   - Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km) 40km
   - Telephone number 08 85230166
   - Fax number 08 85230877
   - Preschool website address:
   - Preschool e-mail address kindy.director@gawlerpre.sa.edu.au
   - Enrolment/Attendance
     Gawler East Preschool average enrolment is in the mid to high 80’s. We have an above state average attendance rate of around 89% based on current data collection methods. Stand-alone preschool located adjacent to the Gawler East Primary School and Gawler Community Child Care Centre
   - Programs operating at the preschool
     - Universal Access – 15 hours per week of Kindergarten for eligible children currently accessed by a 30 hour fortnight.
2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose
  Our Core Business is to provide a stimulating and quality educational program for eligible preschoolers. 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.
  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.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Gawler East Preschool uses the mandated National Curriculum - Early Years Learning Framework.

- Core Values
  We believe:

  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  
In 2013 the preschool will be investigating ways to improve curriculum delivery  
to a wider age range of children as will be the case from 2014.

4. Centre Based Staff

• Staff Profile  
Currently 1 Director (full time), 1 full time equivalent teacher (worked by 2  
teachers part time), and 1 ½ ECWs (worked by 2 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

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. The Outdoor area is a priority area for  
improvement over 2013 – 2014 to address difficulty maintaining lawn surface  
during current climate.
• 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

• 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
  Gawler shopping precinct is only 2 km from the preschool and there is a small group of shops nearby.
• Other local facilities
  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.
• Accessibility
  There is a regular bus service that links the preschool with Gawler central.

7. Further Comments
• The preschool prides itself in its efforts to continuously improve. It has a recent history of involvement in numerous State and Regional initiatives. In 2012 with the introduction of the National Quality Framework, the preschool was required to focus on ensuring all areas were meeting the standards and regulations. This focus on initial accreditation will be able to develop and broaden once the administrative details of the regulations and standards have been met and exceeded.