PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 29/10/2015

Centre number: Risdon Park South Kindergarten

Centre name: 6662

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Rachel Girdham
- Postal address: 10 Hannan Street, PORT PIRIE 5540
- Location address: 10 Hannan Street, PORT PIRIE 5540
- DECS Region: Yorke & Mid North
- Geographical location: 240 kms from Adelaide
- Telephone number: (08) 8632 2576
- Fax number: (08) 8633 2559
- Preschool website address: www.risdonkgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.6662.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance:
  2012- Term 1: 69 / 66 Term 2: 74 / 66 Term 3: 71 / 67 Term 4: 74 / 69
  2013 – Term 1: 71/ Term 2: 80/
  2014 – Term 1: 71 Term 2: 68/63
  2015- Term 1: 72 Term 2: 73 Term 3: 75

- Co-located/stand-alone: Stand alone

- Programs operating at the preschool:
  - **Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children** (children are in either A or B)
    - Group A: Monday & Wednesday 8.30-3.30 and two Friday excursions per term
    - Group B: Tuesday & Thursday 8.30-3.30 and two Friday excursions per term
  - **Bilingual Support**: Bilingual support is provided for children growing up in homes where English is their second language or where their family cultural ties are being maintained.
Preschool Support: Pre-school support can be provided for children identified with significant learning and developmental needs. An Individual Learning Plan is developed for each child receiving preschool support. Parents are invited to work with staff to plan for the needs of their child so that expectations are the same at home and at kindergarten. A preschool support worker is employed to work with these identified children each term.

DECD also provides preschool support for children with significant Speech and/or Language delays. The speech pathologist visits the kindergarten each term to assess and review these children and provides a home program for the child if necessary. A preschool support worker is employed to work with these identified children each term. Port Pirie has a Child Development Unit that will also provide support for children with additional needs. Pre-school children can access speech, O.T and Physiotherapy through Allied Health which is based at the Port Pirie Hospital.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose
  The core business of Risdon Kindergarten is to provide and develop
  * High quality educational opportunities for learning through play for 3-5 year old children in a stimulating and interactive environment.
  * Provision of high quality curriculum based on the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia which considers each child’s background, interests, strengths and needs.
  * A workable partnership with parents and the wider community with the child as the priority focus.
  * Quality reflective teaching practices and interactions which support each child’s learning and development of knowledge, life skills, competencies and attitudes.
  * Flexibility when choosing group A or B for each child (where possible) to suit the needs of the child and the family.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework for Australia the Belonging, Being & Becoming document. This is Australia’s national Early Years Framework which aims to extend and enrich children’s learning from birth to five and through the transition to school. This framework forms the foundation for ensuring all children in early childhood settings experience quality teaching and learning. It has a specific emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development.

- Core Values: CENTRE Vision STATEMENT
  Play, Learn, Develop & Achieve
Specific curriculum approaches: The kindergarten encourages all children and their families to follow healthy lifestyles which include good nutrition and regular physical activity.

The kindergarten prides itself on strong working relationships with families to provide the best learning outcomes for each child. The kindergarten recognises parents are the first and most important “teachers” in their child’s first 5 years of life and develop working partnerships with families. This is achieved by parents and staff developing Individual learning goals and these are reviewed and updated during parent chats held towards the end of each term.

Joint programmes/special curriculum projects: Staff teach the Child Protection Curriculum (CPC) according to current DECD guidelines; use PALS social skills program.

4. Centre Based Staff

Staff Profile Term 1 & 2:
The centre has:
- Director 1.0
- Teacher 1.3 (shared positions 0.5 Teacher and 0.8 Teacher)
- ECW 1.0
- A part time Finance Officer – 1½ hours per week
- A part time Support Worker – hours vary term by term
- Additional ECW hours to manage Universal Access to Preschool and cover lunches.

Preschool support hours are allocated from the central DECD budget for children with significant needs each term. The kindergarten also regularly employs staff to provide support for children with additional needs but who do not qualify for DECD funded assistance.

The centre also currently receives 1 hour of bi-lingual support time per week for children enrolled who are learning English as their second language.

The Finance Officer is employed for 1½ hours per week to manage the finances of the centre. This person provides vital support to the Director and the Governing Council. The Finance/admin person also maintains the WHS. through Safety Task and Action reporting Program and constantly provides a list of tasks to other staff to ensure that the WHS. standards are maintained.

Performance Management Program
Each staff person is required to develop a professional development plan at the beginning of the year which states what they want to achieve for the year and how they will support the Quality Improvement Plan. This will be reviewed twice per year and their performance will be discussed regularly with their line manager.
• **Access to special support staff**
  As provided by DECD

• **Other**
  Extra staff is employed by using the Early Assistance Grant and other funding provided by DECD throughout the year. This year an ECW has been employed for 6 ½ hours a week to allow release time for the Director to administer the centre.

5. **Centre Facilities**

• **Buildings and grounds**
  Large shady outdoor area which includes many trees, large shade structure, children’s garden, a digging patch, a mound, a large sandpit, an amphitheatre, a hut and some brightly coloured play equipment that includes 2 platforms, a bridge and a wavy slide.
  One main building with office, meeting/quiet work area room, store room, kitchen, cleaner room, children’s toilet/change area, staff/disabled toilet and main classroom.

• **Capacity (per session):** Full-time (Maximum of 41 per session)

• **Centre Ownership:** DECD

• **Access for children and staff with disabilities:**
  The centre is mostly flat with a small step at each doorway. Toilet facilities were upgraded in December 1999 to allow access for people with disabilities and also provided hot water in the bathroom and wet area. There is a ramp leading to the front door.

• **Other**
  The centre has kept a range of pets. Currently the centre a turtle called ‘Joey’ and we are hatching chickens.

6. **Local Community (intended for country preschools)**

• **General characteristics:**
  The Risdon Park South Kindergarten is a full time preschool, located in the southern section of Port Pirie. The pre-school caters for children from a diverse range of backgrounds. Some children travel by bus to the centre from nearby rural areas.
  Port Pirie is an industrial city and is highly aware of the lead content of the environment. The Smelters used to be the largest employer in the city. Advances in technology have streamlined the workforce at the Smelters in recent years. Limited employment prospects locally are encouraging today’s parents to value education from a new perspective.
  The Mid North Christian College opened nearby in January 2005. This has brought more families to this pre-school as families find the distance between this school and other pre-schools creates difficulties for families in terms of travel time.
• **Parent and community involvement in the preschool**

Strong parent support is a big part of this centre. The Governing Council meets twice per term to help manage the running of the centre. This year the Governing Council aimed to raise $4000 for the year and this target has already been reached for the year due to the commitment of the families to the centre.

The centre promotes parent and community involvement in the following ways:

- Community visitors to the kindy
- Promote and participate in community events
- Liaise with associated family and early childhood services
- Encourage parental involvement in the kindy
- Organise family events eg. Family Nights
- Playgroup

• **Port Pirie Schools to which children can transfer from this preschool**

Risdon Park Primary School, Solomontown Primary School, St. Mark’s College, Mid North Christian College Airdale Primary school and Pirie West Primary School

• **Other local care and educational facilities**

Learning Together & Learning Together at Home
Port Pirie Family Day Care
Port Pirie Children’s Centre
Bubble n Squeak Child Development Centre
Port Pirie Community Children’s Centre, Port Pirie Community Kindergarten, Solomontown Kindergarten.
Airdale Primary School, (OSHC Program), Port Pirie West Primary School, Risdon Park Primary School, Solomontown Primary School, Mid North Education Centre, John Pirie Secondary School

• **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

There are two major shopping precincts – one centred around Ellen Street and a second located with the Coles/K-Mart complex on Grey Terrace.

• **Other local facilities**

There are several medical centres and sporting clubs located in Port Pirie. There is also a large cultural centre incorporating the Keith Michell Theatre.

• **Availability of staff housing**

Government housing is readily available.

• **Accessibility**

Premier Stateliner buses travel to Adelaide and other rural centres daily. It is also possible to travel to Adelaide by train but the station is now located some distance from the city with no proper platform for easy boarding.
7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups
  TLAP and the Environmental Health Centre are working with the pre-school to try to reduce the lead levels of all children. They supply the following:
  - Resources for staff to run handwashing workshops with children.
  - Cooking activities with children where possible.
  - A woolworths grocery card to purchase milk, fruit and ingredients for a healthy eating program run by kindergarten.
  - Cleaning of the outdoor learning environment to remove lead dust at least once per week.