



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/18

Centre number: 4645

Centre name: Oakbank Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Cathy Frost
- Postal address: P.O. Box 845
- Location address: 214 Onkaparinga Valley Road Oakbank, SA 5243
- DECD Partnership: Heysen Partnership
- Geographical location: Road distance from GPO • 32 km
- Telephone number: 83884141
- Fax number: 8398 0082
- Preschool website address: www.oakbankgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.4645.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance:

2015 Enrolment:	17
2015 Attendance:	93.8%
2016 Enrolment:	7 (av)
2016 Attendance:	95%
2017 Enrolment:	13
2017 Attendance:	91%
2018 Enrolment:	17

- Stand-alone
- Programs operating at the preschool
 - ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
Tuesday 9-3, Wednesday 9-3, Thursday 9-12
 - ❖ Associated Programs
Pre-Entry Term 4
 - ❖ Lunch/Full Day Program
Tuesday and Wednesday
 - ❖ Bilingual Support
When required and approved by DECD
 - ❖ Preschool Support
When required and funded by Support Services DECD

2. Key Centre Policies

Oakbank Kindergarten places high emphasis on:-

- Children learning through play.
- Using the Early Years Learning framework and the DECD literacy/numeracy indicators to guide practise.
- Using a cycle of learning which emerges through children's interests, dispositions and stage of development. Documentation of learning, reflective practise and staff development that is linked with priorities supports the curriculum.
- Children being unique, capable, competent, active and involved learners.
- Nurturing family values and shared information to meet the needs of individual children through collaborative planning.
- Encouraging safe risk taking and exploration within our well maintained and natural grounds.

- Honest and positive communication to build trusting relationships.
- Maximising children’s learning in a safe and stimulating environment
- Building upon sustainable practices
- Improving learning outcomes for children through improving teacher practice

The kindergarten completes a Quality Improvement Plan each year and an Annual Report at the end of each year which summarises the outcomes. For 2017 the goals linked to National Quality standards were:

1. To maximise children’s learning in a safe and stimulating environment
2. To build upon sustainable practices
3. To improve learning outcomes for children through improving teacher practice

The kindergarten was assessed in 2017 and received a rating of Exceeding in all 7 Quality areas.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework
- Educators work as a team to provide a play-based program in a safe and nurturing environment where children develop a strong sense of ‘belonging’. It is our aim that children will develop a positive self-concept in relation to themselves as learners as they explore, collaborate, investigate, create and enjoy the wonder of ‘being’. Good communication with children, parents, staff and other service providers is established to ensure a collaborative approach that meets the needs of each child in ‘becoming’ a successful learner and community member.

- Core Values are outlined in our philosophy and are determined by family input each year. For 2017 they were:
 - ❖ respect
 - ❖ inclusion
 - ❖ co-operation
 - ❖ compromise
 - ❖ kindness
 - ❖ consideration
 - ❖ play
 - ❖ self confidence
 - ❖ independence
 - ❖ curiosity
 - ❖ imagination
 - ❖ creativity
 - ❖ being safe
 - ❖ fun
 - ❖ sustainability

- Specific curriculum approaches
 1. Wondering Wall - children's learning Ideas
 2. Small group work
 3. Mandated teaching e.g. 'Keeping safe'
 4. Individual Learning Plans
 5. Explicit teaching
 6. The [Respect, Reflect and Relate](#) document is used to drive improvement

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile:
Director .5
Teacher .5
- ECW's are employed for support work, lunch-care and administrative support and this is determined by enrolments
- Other:
Employed by Governing Council Finance Office 0 - 2.5 hours per week (term time only)
- Performance Management Program - Twice yearly meeting with goals and reflections

Other

Staff meetings are held fortnightly on Wednesdays at the end of sessions.

The Director communicates with families, educators and the governing council in person and via newsletter, phone, email and meetings.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

Oakbank Kindergarten is situated beside the Oakbank Community Playground and is set within picturesque grounds which include well established deciduous trees, moss rocks surrounding the large sandpit and native plants. Many new to the Centre are surprised and delighted with the size of the outdoor area and the natural environment in which children can develop their physical skills, imagination and social relationships. The building was built as the original Oakbank Primary School over 150 years ago and has character with its high ceilings and interesting layout.

- Capacity (per session): 22 for two staff
- Centre Ownership: Department of Education and Child Development
- Access for children and staff with disabilities:

There are a number of wide doorways within the centre and the paving around the building is level, however the toilet area is restricted to able bodied children and staff. The grounds are built on a slope.

6. Local Community

- General characteristics:

Oakbank Kindergarten is situated on the Onkaparinga Valley Road with easy access to the South Eastern Freeway. The townships are surrounded by farm land. Predominately English speaking families reside in the Adelaide Hills.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool

Parents are involved in the kindergarten through Governing Council and through other voluntary work sought by the centre. The kindergarten participates in the community through annual involvement in planting native grasses and bushes in the local playground. Links with the local Oakbank Area School include shared visits with planned activities supporting children's continuity of learning.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool. Children attending Oakbank Kindergarten enrol in a number of local government and public schools include Oakbank Area School, Woodside Primary School and Hills Christian Community School.

- Other local care and educational facilities,

Goodstart Early Learning Centre shares kindergarten aged children with us. The Children are transferred by staff between the sites to access the kindergarten program and childcare facility.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Mount Barker would be the largest township with all services / conveniences required for any family.

- Other local facilities

The township of Oakbank offers some facilities such as a Community Playground, Fodder Store / Post Office, Pizza Bar and Cafe, Chiropractor, Oakbank Hotel and the Oakbank Area School. Balhannah has 3 shopping hubs which include medical / dental/ pharmacy / Vet / fodder shop / beauty salon / Mitre 10 / bakeries and more.

Availability of staff housing

There is the availability of homes to rent or purchase either locally or within a 15 to 20 minute drive

- Accessibility

Public transport is available to Adelaide or local townships by bus.

- Local Government

Adelaide Hills Council

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups

The Heysen Partnership schools and kindergartens are together involved in a collaborative three year 'Visible Learning' Project.