



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 08/2013

Centre number: 6526

Centre name: MICHELLE DEGARIS MEMORIAL KINDERGARTEN

1. General information

- Preschool Director:- GERALDINE MATHIESON
- Postal address:- BOX 379, NARACOORTE SA 5271
- Location address:- 10 PRICE AVENUE, NARACOORTE SA 5271
- DECS Region:- LIMESTONE COAST
- Geographical location -OFF MEMORIAL DRIVE, NARACOORTE
- Telephone number:- (08)87621086
- Fax number:- (08)87620862
- Preschool website address:- www.michellekgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address:-Geraldine.MathiesonO@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance

	2012			
Term	1	2	3	4
Enrolments	59	61	59	72
Utilisation	100%	82%	86.4%	84.7%
Special Needs	25%	27.2%	33.5%	20%

As determined by the data, we continued to have a very high utilisation rate and in the provision of services for children with Special needs.

Enrolment by Term				
Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2010	52	58	56	56
2011	73	68	57	56
2012	50	61	59	72

Attendance Percentages				
Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2010 Centre	98.1	110.3	96.4	94.6
2011 Centre	97.3	100	91.2	96.4
2012 Centre	100	82	86.4	84.7
2010 State	88.8	90.3	88	88.2
2011 State	89.9	89.1	88.4	89.6
2012 State	87.4	85.9	84.4	85.5

- **Stand-alone Preschool**
- **Programs operating at the preschool**
- **Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children.**
- **With the incoming "Same first Day" - children whom turn 5 prior to the 1 May, will commence school at the start of Term 1 each year, others will commence school the next year.**
- **Under the universal access program children are entitled to 15 hours of preschool per week. The centre offers 4 or 5 sessions and full days. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday - 9.00am - 3.30pm**
- **Children are entitled to attend for up to four terms prior to enrolling in school.**
- **Aboriginal children and Children under the Guardianship of the Minister may attend from three years of age.**

Pre entry

Children may attend pre entry for one session per week (the term before beginning Preschool) at the Director's discretion.

South Australian Preschool Bilingual Program

This program provides support for children from culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds (CALD) who have limited or no English.

Preschool Support Program

- Children who have additional needs and/or disabilities may attend for one or two additional terms.

This program provides additional resourcing to the preschool to ensure that eligible children with additional needs and/or disabilities have access to, and the opportunity for, meaningful participation in the preschool curriculum. This support includes additional staffing and support from a Disability Coordinator and Speech Pathologist.

Occasional care (DECD funded) is a "now and then" program for children aged over two years of age, with a priority for access to those children not accessing any other Early Childhood Service.

Sessions

Tuesday 9:00am - 12:00pm.

Thursday 9:00am to 12:00 OR 1:00pm - 3:30pm

Friday 9:00am to 12.

Eight places per session are allocated for children over 2 years and not attending Preschool and two places per session for Emergency care.

Bus Program

Children can access the DECD School Bus system (if seats are available) to gain access to the town and, with a staff member, travel on the Naracoorte South Primary School Link Bus to Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

Service statement of philosophy

Our Philosophy

Michelle Degaris Memorial Kindergarten is an early childhood service site that is committed to the education of all children, families, staff and community members.

We value, respect and promote a sense of ownership, collaboration and participation of all community members to maximise positive learning outcomes for all people accessing the Centre's services.

We believe that each child is individual, unique and important, and has the right to develop to their full potential

providing a curriculum that allows children to explore, imagine, create, problem solve, and play often

providing a high quality, safe, welcoming, happy, supportive and accessible, care and education for individual children's and family needs

providing children and families with opportunities to become involved in all programs and activities

providing children and families with opportunities to develop stable and caring relationships

respecting and valuing the cultural and social diversity of children and their families

We believe that parents and families are children's 'first educator', and we aim to:

welcome parents and family members with respect and sensitivity

encourage communication between staff and parents / carers

respond to individual family needs

recognise and respect the diversity of families

create, support and encourage involvement and participation

provide information about other services available on site and in the local community

We believe that staff are the Centre's most valuable resource. In order to provide a high quality service, we aim to:

provide job satisfaction

value the skills and knowledge that each individual staff member brings with them

respect the diversity of staff backgrounds and experiences

encourage ongoing professional development opportunities

maintain a safe and supportive working environment

We believe that the Centre is a valuable community resource, and as such we aim to:

build relationships with all our services

build relationships with other community agencies

provide an accessible, flexible, and high quality service in response to community needs



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

3. Curriculum

- **Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework - Belonging, Being and Becoming; Protective Behaviour Programs; KidsMatter Early Childhood; Learning through play.**
- **Core Values**
- **The core business of the Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten is to provide each child with the opportunity to develop to their full potential through a range of play orientated experiences that respect and include their different life experiences and works in partnership with parents.**

"Parents have a unique knowledge and understanding of their child. In order to maximise each child's learning potential, it is beneficial that parents and service providers work towards fostering an effective partnership."

(Planning for Learning, CSO, 1991)

- **Specific curriculum approaches**
We utilise a range of teaching techniques designed to meet the individual learning styles of the child and in consultation with the expectations of the family and DECD expectations.
This incorporates formal instruction (teacher directed learning), child directed learning, informal experiential learning, small group learning, use of visuals, inclusive of PECS, signing, scenario training,
 - **Joint programmes/special curriculum projects** - For two (2) years we have been a Pilot Centre for the KidsMatter Early Childhood initiative. Since 1983 we have held a high profile in environmental programs, for example KESAB. Buddy Programs with Naracoorte South Primary School, Naracoorte Primary School and Sunrise Christian School.
- 4. Centre Based Staff**
- **Staff Profile**
Geraldine Mathieson - Preschool Director 2; Full-time Permanent 1.0; commenced 1982.
Chantelle Weckert - Preschool Teacher; Full-time Permanent 1.0; commenced 2009.
Keryn Proud - Early Childhood Worker 1; Universal access 24 hours; holds a Diploma Children's Services; commenced Term 3, 2009.
Jayne Castine - Occasional Care Worker 1; 15 hours per week; studying Certificate 3 Children's Services; commenced 2010.
Deb Henschke - Preschool Support 4 hours; holds a Certificate 3 in Education support, studying Certificate 4; commenced 1994.
Nicole Dupree -Bi-Lingual Support 7.2 hours; studies Certificate 3 Children's Services, commenced 2011.
Susan Sutherland - Preschool Support 7.24 hours; studying Certificate 3 Children's Services; commenced 2012.
 - **Performance Management Program** - Staff meet with the Preschool Director in Term 1 of each year to formulate their plan, with a review meeting in Term 3 to assess progress and review support requirements.
 - **Access to special support staff** - we have excellent support networks with our Regional Support Team as well as support services within Community Health, Physiotherapy, Child and Youth health, Disability SA, School dental, Child Development unit, ac Care, local Police, and our Early Intervention Swim Program.
 - **Other** - we enjoy our liaisons with the Education Hub, which is inclusive of Preschool and Schooling sector, Child Care facilitators, inclusive of Family Day Care, local Community groups and particularly appreciate the support of our Naracoorte Regional Office staff, especially, Christine Billing.

5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds** - Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten is a large centre (184 sq m), set in extensive grounds of .2246 hectares. It was opened in November, 1961, but development programs and upgrades have been continual. The Centre continues to review and upgrade its Curriculum materials, more recently with a focus on up to date Curriculum Technology resources.
- **Centre Ownership** - Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten belongs to the Naracoorte and District community and the land is leased from the Naracoorte and Lucindale Council.
- **Access for children and staff with disabilities** - There are two (2) access gates for children, families and staff with disabilities.

Other information

6. Local Community

- **General characteristics:** Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten provides services to families within the Local Township and surrounding districts, and Victorian families, often involving extensive travel. The impact of this is evidenced by the high demand for full day sessions requiring lunchtime programs. We are serviced two days a week with Departmental School buses. It is one of two Preschools in the town and it generally enrolls children from the southern part of town, as well as children from the outlying intensive farming communities. Our families come from diverse socio-economic backgrounds and increasingly complex family structures. There is a small Aboriginal population, and a growing transient and Non English or English as a second language population, particularly our Afghani community whom speak Dari, our Thai community and a relatively new community of Filipino families. These families access employment at the meatworks, vineyards and outlying farming areas. We continue to provide service for and increasingly identify children with additional needs.
- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool** - We enjoy extensive input from our families and the local community in the functioning of the Centre, which is greatly appreciated. Also, extensive input and support from families through our KidsMatter Leadership Team, Governing Council and our Curriculum Advisory Committee.
- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool** -

Feeder Schools

Feeder Schools				
Site number - Name	Type	2010	2011	2012
0138 - Frances Primary School	Govt.	2.2	2	2.6
0309 - Naracoorte Primary School	Govt.	21.7	19	31.6
0936 - Naracoorte South Primary School	Govt.	54.4	59	42.1
9402 - Sunrise Christian School	Non-Govt.	21.7	20	23.7
Total		100	99	100

As identified by the data, Naracoorte South Primary School continues to be our major feeder school, but with the Sunrise Christian School building their new school just to the east of us, we have an increasing enrolment of children whom will be enrolling there.

- **Other local care and educational facilities** - There are two (2) Child care centre, a small Family Day Care service, and an Out of School Hours Service (OSHC), also, another Preschool service, three Primary Schools and a High School based in Naracoorte.
- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities** - Refer Naracoorte Lucindale Council website link.



Naracoorte Lucindale Council - Home.url

- **Other local facilities**



Naracoorte Lucindale Council - Home.url

- **Availability of staff housing**

Refer - www.elders.com.au/southeast or email -naracoorte@elders.com.au

- **Accessibility**



Refer - Premier Stateliner Coach Services.url

- **Local Government**



Refer - Mitch Williams MP - State Member for MacKillop.url

7. Further Comments

- **Partnership arrangements with other groups**

We work closely with local Community Groups with representation on the Naracoorte Lucindale Council initiative - Community Care Bank and Sports and Recreational Facilities Committee; Community Health' Early Intervention Network; Co-ordinate Inter-agency support with a local initiative to support our Multi-cultural Community with a Diversity Network.