



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 2018

Centre number: 4675

Centre name: Willow Close Preschool

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Beryl Barnard
- Postal address: 3 Willow Close, Mount Barker SA 5251
- Location address: 3 Willow Close, Mount Barker SA 5251
- DECD Partnership: Heysen
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 42 Kms
- Telephone number: 8391 0506
- Fax number: 8391 3083
- Preschool website address: www.willowpre.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: beryl.barnard516@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance
Enrolments varied from 65 to 79 over past 4 years. Attendances range from 87.9% to 97.3% over past 6 years.
- Co-located/stand-alone
Willow Close is a stand-alone pre school. Currently a Children's Centre is being built and the preschool will be relocating to Charles Street Mount Barker at beginning of Term 4 as a stand alone centre.
- Programs operating at the preschool
 - ⊞ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children

- ⌘ Inclusive Prechool Programme to support children with disabilities/ high support needs
- ⌘ Associated Programs – pre-entry in Term 4, Early Entry and playgroup. Playgroup operates on Fridays from 12.30 – 2.30 coordinated by parents.
- ⌘ Lunch/Full Day Program – all eligible preschool children access our lunch program. The program is inclusive of the 15 hours per week/30 hour fortnight access.
- ⌘ Bilingual Support – pending need, we apply for extra funding to support bilingual support.
- ⌘ Preschool Support – is an integral component of the preschool program supporting children with diverse needs ranging from articulation to moderate and sometimes severe speech/language, physical and other needs. Outcomes benefit and support of 30% of the cohort each year.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities: Willow Close completes an Annual Report and evaluates the Quality Improvement Plan each year. The current priorities are stated in the Quality Improvement Plan with a major focus on promoting children's oral language development.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework, Respect, Reflect and Relate document, Literacy and Numeracy Indicators.
- Core Values: We pride ourselves on promoting an inclusive learning environment for all children, celebrating diversity and each child's unique needs, strengths and abilities. Children's voice is heard and embedded into all areas of the curriculum. Working in partnership with families thereby creating an inviting and welcoming environment; building on each child's prior experiences and knowledge to achieve the best possible learning outcomes for all children.
- Specific curriculum approaches: Learning through inquiry within an emergent curriculum with a strong focus on oral language development.
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects: Partnership involvement in Visible Learning and Learning Design and Reflective Practice (LDAR).

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile:
Director: - 1.0
Teacher: - 1.0 mainstream. 0.6 inclusive preschool programme 0.4 mainstream
ECW 1: - 1.0 mainstream. 0.6 inclusive preschool programme 0.4. 0.5 mainstream lunch care.
ECW 2: - preschool support 0.5. finance officer – 10 hours per week.
- Performance Management Program: All staff engage in Performance Development Plan twice a year with Director.

- Access to special support staff: - Willow Close is committed to providing support for children requiring One Plans and receiving preschool support. Governing Council has funded targeted groups of children to receive initial assessment by private speech pathologist and intensive support during their time at preschool.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds: Currently our building and land is owned by the Department for Education until such time as we move. The Mount Barker Council has ownership when we vacate the premises.
- Capacity: 45 children
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: there is a designated carpark for disabled parking and the preschool has easy access from the street.
- Centre's financial position: Willow Close is a financially viable site. We are audited annually by the State Government.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: New housing estates are being developed continually and the community is growing.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool: Willow Close has an active Governing Council each year where they show commitment and dedication. Community events are held during the year.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: Willow Close feeds into a variety of schools each year – 10 in total in 2017. The main feeder schools are Mount Barker South, Mount Barker Primary, St Mark's Lutheran Primary School and St Francis de Sales College Primary School.
- Other local care and educational facilities: OHSC is located at Mount Barker South Primary School. There are two child care centres located within 1 kilometre of Willow Close with another one currently being built. School dentist located adjacent to Mount Barker Primary School, Child and Family Health services and Community Health services available.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: Mount Barker has a large shopping precinct with easy access to surrounding areas. There are a number of industrial estates located around the township.
- Other local facilities: Mount Barker has several medical clinics, a hospital, courthouse, police station and ambulance services, Post Office, recreational

facilities, bus and taxi service; several restaurants, hotels, TAFE college co-located with local library. One large cinema complex, a golf course, numerous parks and walking trails.

- **Accessibility**
Mount Barker is accessible from Adelaide via the South Eastern Freeway. Public transport to Adelaide is readily available.

7. Further Comments

- *Relocation to Children's Centre*
After 40 years of operating as a preschool at Willow Close we will be relocating to Charles Street and renamed The Willow's Children's Centre for Early Child Development and Parenting. Staff are currently preparing for this historic move.