

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT 2015

Updated: 09/07/2015

Centre number: 2686

Centre name: Minlaton District Early Learning Centre

1. General information

- **Centre name** : Minlaton District Early Learning Centre
- **Centre number** : 2686
- **Preschool Director** : Janet Stephenson
- **Postal address**: 1 West Tce Minlaton S.A 5575
- **Location address** :as above
- **Courier number** : R 46 /09
- **Telephone number** : 08-8853 2301
- **Fax number** : 08-8853 2325
- **Website address** : www.minlatonkgn.sa.edu.au
- **E-mail address** : Janet.Stephenson190@schools.sa.edu.au
- **SYPartnership** : South of and including Maitland and Ardrossan – 6 Early Learning Centres/Kindergartens, 5 Primary Schools, 4 Area/District Schools and 1 Aboriginal School.
- **Geographical location** ::200kms from GPO
- **Enrolment/Attendance**: Term 3 2015: 37 eligible enrolments, projected enrolment for 2016: 35 children.
Occasional Care: 46 children enrolled Term 2 2015
- **Co-located/stand alone**: Stand alone
- **Programs operating**
 - ❖ *Pre-Entry session*– Proposed Term 4 2015: To be finalised by end of Term 3 with all feeder schools - 1 session on Tuesday morning for children who will commence their 'eligible' year of preschool the following year. Session will coincide with kindergarten children's transition visits to schools.
 - ❖ *Kindergarten Sessions*–Sessions are offered full days that include lunch time care. Sessions rostered: odd weeks: Tuesday and Thursday and even weeks: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
 - ❖ *Occasional Care*- funded Occasional Care is offered for children under 2 years of age and over 2 years of age. One under 2 years session is offered Friday mornings. Three over two sessions are offered: Friday am and Friday pm. Children may attend 1 session per week.
 - Unfunded Occasional Care for over 2 years is offered Friday am.
 - ❖ *Early Entry* - This may be negotiated when additional time is likely to significantly improve a child's learning and developmental outcomes.
 - ❖ *Preschool Support* - Children who are identified and assessed with special needs are supported through DECD specialists based at the Kadina Office. Currently 4 hours of support from a contract Preschool Support ECW is provided per week for these children. Support needs are reviewed each term.
 - ❖ *Playgroup* - run by Playgroup Coordinator on a Monday 10am – 12 noon
 - ❖ *School Transition*- Program with Minlaton District School, Curramulka, Stansbury and Port Vincent Primary Schools yet to be finalised but will occur Term 4.

2. Key Centre Policies

Service statement of philosophy

The Minlaton District Early Learning Centre values the uniqueness of each child and in partnership with families and the community fosters children's love of learning.

Educators do this by:

- Building on children's present knowledge, interests and abilities and taking account of their learning styles.
- Involving families and the community in children's learning.
- Providing a secure, play based environment so that all children are confident to explore.
- Fostering children's social and emotional development.
- Using reflective practice to continually improve and challenge children in their learning.

Values: Friendship, Honesty, Respect, Confidence & Happiness

Improvement Priorities for 2015 – parents involved in child's learning progress and service decision making, transition, safe outdoor environment, other service details available and Presschool Numeracy and Literacy indicators.

3 Curriculum

- **Framework:** National Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) for Australia: Belonging, Being & Becoming
- **Specific Curriculum approaches:**
 - Support children's individual learning through play, based on their interests and needs.
 - 2007 the introduction of the 'You Can Do It' program – a social-emotional learning curriculum for ages 4-6 years
 - 2008 the introduction of the DECS Child Protection curriculum
 - A regular routine that provides whole group, small group and individual learning opportunities with uninterrupted periods that permit children to develop self-initiated play.
 - Formal reporting begins in the child's first term during an interview with parents and assessment by the EYLF Developmental Learning Outcomes (DLO's). An Individual Learning Plan is created in partnership with the parents. A Statement of Learning is written at the end of each term and included in the child's Profile book that goes home each term.
 - Children visit the Minlaton District School Junior Primary classes each term with reciprocal visits to the Centre. Visits to feeder schools occur when necessary.
 - Children access the services of the Community Library once per term.
 - Children visit residents of South Park Hostel and Melaleuca Nursing Home each term.

4. Centre Based Staff

- **Staff Profile**

Contract Director – 0.5 Band A-1 with additional 0.1 Occasional Care and 0.1 Universal Access
Teacher 0.5
Kindergarten ECW – 0.6
Occasional Care Co-ordinator ECW 2 – contract 0.2
Occasional Care ECW 1 – contract 0.2
Preschool Support ECW – hours vary each term – currently 13 hour per week
- **Performance management program**

The Director is line managed by the Educational Director – Joann Weckert. Performance Management for the ECW's is the Director's responsibility and is developed and reviewed each term.
- **Access to special support staff**

Support staff for kindergarten children is funded through the Early Assistance program and the DECD support services. Specialist staff are based at the DECD Kadina Office.

5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

The Minlaton Kindergarten was opened in 1967. The main building comprises of 2 activity rooms, an office, kitchen and bathroom with 3 children's toilets and sinks, 1 adult toilet and a change table and bath.

The north side of the building has a verandah with café blinds and a pergola which is 50% weather proof. The yard has a large shade covered sandpit, wooden fort and cubby house.

The yard is 50% bark chips and 50% lawn which is watered by an automatic watering system. A water course was installed in 2010.

A gazebo with seating was built in 2011 replacing the dead tree and surrounding platform.

2 sheds accommodate play equipment A larger storage shed replaced a smaller one in 2013. There is a garden shed.

DECD Maintenance 2013/2014 funding was used to refurbish the bathroom and office.

New playground fort was installed 2014

- **Capacity (per session)**

Minlaton is a Category 2 Centre. 40 children can be accommodated at the site.

- **Centre Ownership**

The building is owned by DECD. The land is owned by the District Council of Yorke Peninsula and leased to the Centre.

- **Access for children and staff with disabilities**

Wheelchair access for adults and children.

- **Other**

6 school buses service the area and are available for 4 year old children. At present over 50% children use the school bus.

6. Local Community

- **General characteristics:**

Minlaton is situated in the centre of the peninsula, being only a short distance to either coast. The population is approximately 770 (2006 census). It is a rural community with farming and fishing and is supported by small business and professional personnel.

Children from the towns of Curramulka, Port Vincent, Stansbury, Brentwood and Hardwicke Bay attend the centre via school bus.

All kindergarten children have English as their first language

- **Feeder schools**

Most children go to the Minlaton District School with a few moving onto Curramulka, Stansbury and Port Vincent Primary Schools, Maitland Lutheran School or Yorketown St Columbus School.

- **Parent and community involvement**

Minlaton District Early Learning Centre is locally managed and has an active Governing Council.

The Governing Council employs a Finance Officer and a cleaner.

Approximately 65 families use the centre. Parents support the centre in many ways including volunteering as a parent helper, working bees, fundraising and assisting during excursions.

Pooled lunches, family bbq's and special days (e.g. grandparents) ensure parental and community involvement.

Newsletters 3 times a term, local newspaper articles and some fundraising events highlight the centre activities in the community.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

Child and Youth Health run a regular clinic from the Minlaton Health service.

The School Dental Service at Maitland is a free service for children who are dependants of a Centrelink Concession Card or School Card holder. For other children a fee applies for each general course of dental care.

Family Day Care is accessed through the Maitland Office.

CYP GymJams operates from the Ardrossan Area School gym each week.

- **Other local facilities**

- Associated agricultural services – mechanical, engineering, stock and merchandise agencies, freight and SYP Landcare.
- Banking (Bank SA, ANZ), accountants, and insurance agents
- Food outlets – IGA, bakery, 2 Delis, Minlaton Hotel, CMS Crows & Minlaton Sporting Club, Asian takeaway.
- Goods and services – pharmacy, Post Office, newsagent, 2 hairdressers, hardware store, 1 clothes stores, chocolate store, quilters store, shoe store, pet store, fitness centre, garden centre, upholsterer, undertaker, 2 electrical stores, Laundromat, 1 car dealers, 2 real estate agents and a outlet.
- Minlaton Health Service with 3 doctors, Community Health, Women’s Health, Child & Youth Health, Mental Health and visiting specialists
- 24 hour Emergency Centre
- Aged Care facilities – nursing home, hostel and cottages
- Ambulance centre
- Police Station with 2 officers
- Fire Station
- Community Library
- Sporting facilities – football, tennis, lawn bowls, golf, netball, cricket, hockey, table tennis, soccer
- Caravan park with cabin accommodation
- Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran and Uniting Churches
- Community Art group
- Fauna Park

- **Availability of staff housing**

Private rental is available. A range of houses are on the market for sale.

- **Accessibility to Adelaide:**

There is a regular bus service to Adelaide.

- **Local Government body**

District Council of Yorke Peninsula – office in Minlaton. Website address www.yorke.sa.gov.au

7. Further Comments