

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 08/2011

Centre number: 6631

Centre name: Laura Preschool Centre

1. General information

- Centre name
: Laura Preschool Centre
- Centre number
: 6631
- Preschool Director
: Nicky Cominos
- Postal address
: 6 Booyoolie Street, Laura S.A. 5480
- Location address
: As above
- Telephone number
: 8663 2252
- Fax number
: 8663 2629
- e-mail address
: kindy.director@laurapre.sa.edu.au
- DECS District
: York and Mid North
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
: 252kms
- Enrolment/Attendance
: We currently have 17 children full-time children enrolled.
- Co-located/stand-alone
: The Preschool is situated across the road from the Laura Primary School.
- Programs operating
 - ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
: Children are offered 2 full day sessions 9am – 2pm on Mondays and Wednesdays

- ❖ Site Funded Occasional Care
 - : Bus care, early and extended entry offered
- ❖ Preschool Support
 - : A support worker is employed to work with children the staff have identified as needing help in specific areas including speech and have been assessed by DECS speech. Hours per week vary each term and are allocated by DECS.

2. Key Centre Policies

- From Laura Preschool Site Learning Plan
 - 1) **Literacy:** Oral language competency, Interaction verbally and non verbally, Children to have an understanding of rhyme
 - 2) **Numeracy:** Children to Have a basic understanding of basic numeracy and mathematical skills
 - 3) **Well-Being:** Children will take responsibility for their own health and physical well-being, Children to develop an understanding in social and emotional well-being

3. Curriculum

- Framework used
 - : Early Year's Framework
 - : We are programming using the Early Year's Framework framework and reporting to parents using the Belonging, Being and Becoming curriculum outcomes through newsletters, photo displays, information boards and informal discussions. On completion of preschool all children take home their kindy profile book and a summative report.

Core Values

We aim to provide a safe, caring, supportive and inclusive learning environment and program for eligible preschool children.

This group consists of:

Children in the 6 terms prior to starting school, ie all children are eligible from 3.5 years of age.

These children can participate in a wide variety of learning situations, both informal and structured, to develop a positive self concept and general life skills and competencies.

Our program is based on:

The individual needs and interests of each child and the group as a whole, using the Early Year's framework

From these we draw our underlying core beliefs:

A positive self concept is crucial to successful learning and development, all children are unique individuals who learn, react, and develop in different ways and at different rates.

Specific curriculum approaches

Staff will provide specific curriculum approaches that will:

- provide appropriate learning situations and investigations in children's learning,
- foster positive interactions between children,
- value the importance of play, observation and investigation in children's learning,
- recognise and value the individual interests, strengths and needs of each child and the group and plan the program accordingly,
- provide the support and freedom for children to take risks and develop independence,
- observe and record children's development in a variety of ways.

Joint programmes/special projects

: The centre works closely with the primary school with regular visits and with a termly transition program.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
 - : Director (PSD1) 0.5
 - : ECW 1 0.45
 - : Preschool Support ECW currently 6 hours/ week
- Performance Management Program
 - : Self-evaluation, discussion with line managers and accessing appropriate training and development.
- Access to special support staff
 - : Speech therapists visit regularly and liase closely with staff concerning children using the program. The centre is serviced by a special education advisor based at district office. Preschool support is provided for children

referred with special needs and Early Intervention grants are also used to access additional support.

- Other
: Hub-groups with other kindergarten staff in the area are held each term providing staff with support. Also District Office staff when requested.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
: The building is a transportable situated in established grounds across the road from the school.
- Centre Ownership
: Building owned by DECS.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities
: Ramp access is provided and toilet facilities for wheel chairs.
- Other
:

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments)
: Laura is a small rural town in the mid north of South Australia in a mixed farming area. The community is made up of strong farming, artistic, religious, and sporting and conservation groups. Most of the children come from two parent families, English speaking backgrounds. Laura is famous for the Folk Fair that is held annually, on the first weekend in April. This is a major fundraising event for all community groups.
- Parent and community involvement in the Preschool.
: There is an active and supportive parent group who meet monthly and who spend much time organising fundraising activities. Most parents are extremely willing to help out when needed. Staff communicate with parents by formal/informal discussions, newsletters during the term, monthly management committee meetings and display boards, Communication books.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from the preschool
: Laura Primary
: St Joseph's Gladstone
- Other local care and educational facilities:
Child care and Family Day Care is available locally.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
: Farming industries and supermarket, Golden North Ice-cream factory, newsagents, hairdressers, Hardware store, gift shop and various other small shops
- Other local facilities:
: Local Hospital, Chemist, Sporting clubs includes tennis, cricket, football, netball and more in wider area.
- Availability of staff housing.
:
- Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality
: 2.5 hours to Adelaide. Thirty minutes to Port Pirie (major shopping centre), Coach available to Adelaide from either Port Pirie or Gladstone
- Local Government body (name, phone number, availability of publications describing the local area (with source, cost), characteristics, level of involvement
:Northern Areas Council 8664 1139

7. Further Comments

- Partnership/incorporation arrangements with other groups
 - : The building is often utilised by community groups, particularly Play Group on Thursdays between 10 – 12 am.