PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 5654

Centre name: West Lakes Shore Kindergarten

1. General information

- Centre name: West Lakes Shore Kindergarten
- Centre number: 5654
- Preschool Director: Mandy Klessens
- Postal address: Edwin Street, West Lakes Shore, 5020
- Location address: Edwin Street, West Lakes Shore, 5020
- Telephone number: 8449 1189
- Fax number: 8242 3543
- Website address: www.westlkshkgn.sa.edu.au
- E-mail address: kindy.wlsk737@schools.sa.edu.au
- DECD Partnership: Western Adelaide Shores
- Geographical location – Situated approximately 12 kilometres from the GPO

- Enrolment/Attendance: Enrolments are presently 85 children for 2016
- Co-located/stand-alone: This is a co-located centre with the West Lakes Shore Schools, sharing a common carpark for families along with the Bowling Club facilities adjoining the carpark. The kindergarten is owned by Children’s Services.

Programs operating

Kindergarten is an important early step on your child’s journey through our education system, giving them the chance to play, learn, grow and develop as part of a set educational program.

- From 2014 all children will start kindergarten and school on the same day; the first day of Term 1.
- If your child turns 4 before May 1, they will start kindergarten on the first day of Term 1 in that year.
  If your child turns four on or after May 1, they will start kindergarten on the first day of Term 1 the following year.
At the time of enrolling in kindergarten, parents/guardians are required to provide proof of their child’s age. The following documents will be accepted; passport, birth certificate, official Centre-link documentation stating the child’s name and birth date.

Children attend kindergarten in the year prior to starting school. At West Lakes Shore Kindergarten children attend 2 days one week and 2 and a half days the next.

Under the universal access program 4 year old children are entitled to 15 hours of preschool per week.

**Full Day Program –**

**Week 1**
- Monday, Wednesday – Blue Group – 8.25-3.10
- Tuesday, Thursday – Red Group – 8.25-3.10
- Friday – Blue Group – 8.30-11.30

**Week 2**
- Monday, Wednesday – Blue Group – 8.25-3.10
- Tuesday, Thursday – Red Group – 8.25-3.10
- Friday – Red Group – 8.30-11.30

**Bilingual Support**

On a needs basis.

**Preschool Support**
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.

**2. Key Centre Policies**

**Centre Priorities statement of purpose**

1. To improve children’s learning outcomes through developing a link between learning ability/opportunity and regular attendance.

2. For staff and parents to develop a shared understanding of early literacy development within a play based curriculum.

3. For staff and parents to develop a shared understanding of early numeracy development within a play based curriculum.
4. To strengthen our relationship with West Lakes Shore Schools with particular attention to our transition program.

5. To establish a working environment which celebrates success and manages difficulties as a team.

6. Each individual child will be supported to engage in the curriculum to ensure the optimal success in all developmental areas.

7. To create an environment this promotes success, strong relationships between children, staff and families and a positive attitude towards learning in order to maintain student wellbeing.

Healthy Eating Policy

We have a Healthy Eating Policy which outlines that children are required to bring fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, dried fruit or block cheese for their snack. We also have a strict policy on what children are able to bring for lunchtime care. We developed this policy with the Parent and Friends Council Members to counteract food allergies.

3. Curriculum

Frameworks used: The National Curriculum Early Years Learning Framework; Belonging, Being, Becoming; Protective Behaviour; Respect Reflect, Relate assessment tool; Reggio Emilio, and ‘You Can Do It’.

Core Values

Our kindergarten is based with the premise that all children are powerful and engaged learners. We promote learning as a vital tool for children in the 21st Century. We base our philosophy on the Reggio Emilio Approach to learning and layout/design of our kindergarten learning space. We value natural spaces that are uncluttered and minimalist. Outdoors we have followed Marc Armitage’s approach to play, providing a natural space for children to explore, offering loose parts to encourage imagination, creativity and sustained engaged play. We believe in nature play and the benefits for learning and engagement. We value sustainability, recycling and using natural products, friendly to the environment.

4. Centre Based Staff

• Staff Profile

Staffing: 1.0 Director, 0.8 Teacher, 0.6 Teacher, 1.0 ECW and 1.0 ECW. (This may fluctuate depending on funded staff ratio) Performance Management Program. All staff undertakes Performance Management every year.

• Access to special support staff

The kindergarten has currently employed 2 Preschool Support Workers to work with children who have been referred for speech and language difficulties. Preschool support workers work with children on individual programs, in small groups and with the whole group.
5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

The building is approximately 25 years old. The design incorporates a number of areas which are able to be closed off, thus allowing for withdrawal areas. The kitchen was re-modelled in 2000 and an extension of two rooms was added in 2005. A new storage area was developed in 2006 with compactus built in to utilise storage space. The interior and exterior were painted in January 2005. To office area was remodelled in 2004. The building in 2015, was renovated internally due to termite damage. The centre had installed a new acoustic ceiling, new heaters, carpet and paint. The kitchen was refurbished. The outdoor area is well placed and well appointed with many covered areas including a large veranda and a large patio-type area surrounded by garden. The children’s learning environment has recently been upgraded for a natural look and more opportunities for a sustainable environment.

- Capacity (per session)
  45

- Centre Ownership
  DECD owns the facilities

- Access for children and staff with disabilities
  We have a wide garden gate and flat entrance into the kindergarten. We also have change facilities.

6. Local Community

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool.
  Parents are encouraged to participate in our program through various means. We also have a washing roster for parent help. We encourage families to share their experiences, expertise’s, cultural aspects, cooking and if possible information about their occupation.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool.
  The majority of children will attend West Lakes Shore School, the school has OSHC facilities

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  Very close to Westfield West Lakes shopping centre and a local Foodland.

7. Further Comments

Partnership/incorporation arrangements with other groups

Because of the co-location we are able to visit West Lakes Shore Schools on a regular basis. We can borrow from the Resource Centre.