PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: December 2011

Centre number: 4672

Centre name: Vale Park Preschool

1. General information

- Centre name
  : Vale Park Preschool
- Centre number
  : 4672
- Preschool Director
  : Sharron Octoman
- Postal address
  : Corner Tonkin Street and Ascot Avenue Vale Park 5081
- Location address
  : Corner Tonkin Street and Ascot Avenue Vale Park 5081
- Telephone number
  : 8261 0228
- Fax number
  : 8266 6017
- e-mail address
  : kindy.director@valeparkcsc.sa.edu.au
- DECS District
  : Eastern Adelaide Region
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
  : 6 Kilometres
- Enrolment/Attendance
  : 80 children enrolled
- Co-located/stand-alone
  : Co-located with Vale Park Primary School
Programs operating

- Sessional Preschool
  : Four year old children attend for 4 sessions per week, for 15 hours of preschool. They may attend full days or half days.

- Playgroup
  : About 25 families attend playgroup on Friday mornings.

- Pre Entry/transition
  : Children attend a pre entry/transition program on Friday mornings for 4 sessions before they start preschool.

- Occasional Care (indicate whether funded or unfunded)
  : Unfunded care is available for children whose parents request it in cases of emergencies or for events such as medical appointments.

- Lunch/Full Day Program
  : Full days with lunch are currently offered on Mondays to Thursdays. Lunch care is part of our educational program.

- Bilingual Support
  : Bi-lingual Workers support children from a non English speaking background who require support to participate in the curriculum.

- Preschool Support
  : Children who have been identified as having additional needs are supported by preschool support workers.

2. Key Centre Policies

At Vale Park Preschool we believe that Learning is Lifelong.

We believe that optimal children’s learning occurs with a play based curriculum that encourages active participation and provides meaningful experiences where children are supported as decision makers and are viewed as strong and capable. We believe that children’s learning is co-constructed with their peers, parents and educators.

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

Children’s literacy skills and numeracy skills and knowledge, particularly oral language development and learning dispositions such as persistence, problem solving, concentration, resilience, inquiry, experimentation and researching are part of our site plan.
Children’s wellbeing, including implementation of the Child Protection Curriculum, social skills, engagement/involvement, healthy eating and physical development, are a site focus.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework
  - Teaching and learning at Vale Park Preschool is in partnership with children’s families. Literacy, numeracy and wellbeing are a focus and staff reflect on pedagogy to improve learning outcomes for children.

- Core Values
  - Our Vision is to provide a nurturing environment where children’s development is fostered and enriched and in which children are inspired to learn and develop skills, dispositions and creative thinking through play.

- Specific curriculum approaches
  - Play-based curriculum with opportunities for small and large group experiences.

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
  - We have a close, reciprocal relationship with Vale Park School.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
  - 1.0 Director
  - 1.0 Teacher. This position is shared by two staff members.
  - 1.0 ECW. This position is currently shared.

- Performance Management Program
  - Staff participates in Performance Management in an ongoing basis and as part of a formal review.

- Access to special support staff
  - Referrals are negotiated with the Support Team from the Eastern Adelaide Region District office of DECD in consultation with parents for support and assessments.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  - Initially built as a preschool in combination with Playgroups and CYH centre, the preschool comprises of two large indoor play activity rooms, large kitchen, office, storerooms and library.
6. **Local Community**

- **General characteristics:**
  - The parent community includes two parent families, single parents and those with shared custody. A wide variety of socio-economic backgrounds are represented. Families are culturally diverse. Indigenous Australian, Australian, French, Albanian, Indian, African, Greek, Russian, Italian, Iranian, Sri Lankan and Samoan cultures are all represented currently.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool:**
  - A committed Governing Council meets twice a term.
  - We also seek family involvement in a variety of ways: including sharing their culture, knowledge and skills, participation in learning stories, involvement in reports (2nd term and summative), excursions, coffee mornings and data collection processes involving their children.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:**
  - Vale Park Primary School is our main feeder school however children also attend Trinity Gardens, East Adelaide, East Marden, Walkerville and Magil primary schools. They also attend a variety of local private schools.

- **Other local care and educational facilities, eg child care, schools, OSHC:**
  - Local Cozi Kids Child Care Centre transports children to and from the centre. Family Day Care providers also care for our children, take them to and home from preschool.

- **Local Government body:**
  - Walkerville Council

7. **Further Comments**

- **Establishment of new services and/or programs:**
  - Universal Access (15 hours of preschool) began in 2012

- **Partnership/incorporation arrangements with other groups:**
  - The preschool is developing strong links with Vale Park Primary School and the reception class.