



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 06/2010

Centre number: 6642

Centre name: Hincks Avenue Children's Centre

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Kellie Bails
- Postal address: PO Box 2588 WHYALLA NORRIE SA 5608
- Location address: Hincks Avenue WHYALLA NORRIE SA 5608
- DECS Region: Eyre and Western
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km):
Approximately 3km from Whyalla City PO
Approximately 400km from Adelaide GPO
- Telephone number: 08 8645 5240
- Fax number: 08 8645 7604
- Preschool website address: <http://www.hinckscs.sa.edu.au>
- Preschool e-mail address: kindy.director@hinckscs.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance:
Currently we have 32 pre-school children enrolled, we have 5 pre-entry children attending.

- Co-located/stand-alone:
Co-located with Hincks Avenue Primary School
- Programs operating at the preschool:
 - ⊞ Pre Entry

Pre-entry sessions are available in the term prior to starting kindergarten. Children can attend one session per week, either Tuesday or Wednesday morning.
 - ⊞ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children

Children in South Australia are entitled to five sessions of preschool a week after they have turned four years of age. Their preschool year is twelve months prior to starting school. At Hincks Avenue Children's Centre parents access these five sessions by having two full days and one half day session. Sessions are Wednesday mornings – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and a full day on Tuesday and Thursday – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (Lunch is provided free of charge).
 - ⊞ Occasional Care

Our funded sessions operate for children aged between 3 months and 4 years. Program sessions are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings – 9:00 – 11:45 am. Cost is \$5.00 per child or \$2.50 for each additional sibling and concessions are available with appropriate documentation (eg health care cards etc).
 - ⊞ Extended Care

We do not offer extended care at the end of the day.
 - ⊞ Lunch/Full Day Program

Offered to all families on a Tuesday and a Thursday.
 - ⊞ Bilingual Support

Offered as needed – this service is accessed for children identified as having specific needs relating to culture or language.
 - ⊞ Preschool Support

Offered as needed – this service is accessed for children identified as having specific needs relating to intellectual or physical development. This may relate to speech and communication or behaviour.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose:

At Hincks Avenue Children's Centre our purpose is to create healthy, active and socially responsible citizens.

Our vision is to provide a high quality educational program that meets the needs of our children, their families and the wider community focussing on continual improvement for children's wellbeing and achievement.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used:

We use the Early Years Learning Framework in developing our educational programmes. We plan using the Five Learning Outcomes. Our Assessment and Reporting is based on learning achieved around the 5 Learning Outcomes.

- Core Values:

We believe that education is a lifelong process and involves parents and educators working in partnerships.

We respect each child as an individual and facilitate their development of confidence, competence, wellbeing and positive self concept.

We value and appreciate our local community and endeavour to include the cultural diversity, environment and community agencies to enhance our centre and programme for the benefit of all families and children.

Our practices are embedded in the belief that children learn best while engaged in purposeful and explorative play.

- Specific curriculum approaches:

Staff work as a team to provide high quality teaching and learning programs. Our programme is displayed for parents/carers to access so that they can contribute to their children's learning, and parental involvement is encouraged and valued. We believe that each child has the right to feel safe, be supported and educated in an inclusive pre-school culture that nurtures the learning community for all members. We believe that childhood is special and that all children have the right to the magic of childhood - to run, jump and enjoy the sunshine, to have time to think and investigate, to laugh, sing, dance and grow and to feel valued, make mistakes and have fun.

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects:
ArtSmart.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile:
 - Hincks Avenue Children's Centre has 4 staff members.
 - Director (0.7)
 - Teacher (0.5)
 - Teacher (0.1)
 - Early Childhood Worker (0.6)
- Performance Management Program:
Written PDRs with evaluations twice yearly. These PDR sessions cover staff Performance Plans and Personal Plans.
- Access to special support staff:
DECS processes of referral (ie. for speech and communication difficulties, behaviour issues, disabilities) and access to other agencies as needed (ie. Community Health, Occupational Therapist).

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds:
Transportable building with carpet and lino areas, designated office, kitchen, child and adult toilets. Grounds are a combination of barkchips, sand pit, cement and large lawn area.
- Capacity (per session):
38 children
- Centre Ownership:
All facilities and land owned by DECS.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities:
Access ramp for adults and children in wheelchairs. However we have no disabled toilet for adults or children.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics:
The major employers in Whyalla are One Steel, contractors used by that company and educational institutions, but there is also a high rate of unemployment. There are many languages spoken in the community e.g. Aboriginal, Spanish, Greek, Italian, Croatia, Phillipine etc.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool:
Parents are active on Governing Council, which overviews finances, grounds, maintenance and provides feedback and ideas re. the learning programme.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:
Hincks Avenue Primary School, Nicolson Avenue Junior Primary School or Fisk Street Primary School.
- Other local care and educational facilities:
There are three child-care centres, 6 Kindergartens, 7 Primary public schools one of which is the base for OSHC, 2 Catholic Primary schools, 3 secondary schools, 1 Catholic High School, TAFE, and a campus of University of South Australia.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:
Whyalla has two main shopping sections with many city outlets e.g. Woolworths, Coles, Target, Harris Scarfe, Harvey Norman, Radio Rentals and smaller speciality shops. There are electrical, and furniture retailers, as well as art/craft shops. Whyalla has all banking and credit union outlets.
- Other local facilities:
Whyalla has a hospital, health and community service, a large sporting centre with indoor pool, and there are many sporting clubs. There are six hotels and motels, many clubs ranging from shooting to dancing with many in between.
- Availability of staff housing:
Teacher housing is available.
- Accessibility:
Whyalla has flights to Adelaide or bus. There is a sealed main highway, in good condition, to Adelaide taking approximately 4 hours by car. Public transport is available in Whyalla.

- **Local Government :**
Whyalla City Council (08) 8640 3444. The council has various sub-committees and boards that oversee the development of the city. The local paper "The Whyalla News" publishes a magazine about Whyalla and surrounding area. This is called "The Whyalla Guide" and is free.