



**Comet Avenue, Netley SA 503**

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**[www.netleykgn.sa.edu.au](http://www.netleykgn.sa.edu.au)**

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# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: Feb 2012

**Centre number:** 5635

**Centre name:** NETLEY KINDERGARTEN

## 1. General information

- **Preschool Director**  
Briony Brooks
- **Postal address**  
Comet Avenue, Netley, SA, 5037
- **Location address**  
As above
- **DECD Partnership**  
West Torrens Partnership
- **Geographical location – i.e. road distance from GPO (km)**  
7.8 km South West from GPO
- **Telephone number**  
8297 4563
- **Fax number**  
8371 4972
- **Preschool website address:**  
[www.netleykgn.sa.edu.au](http://www.netleykgn.sa.edu.au)

- **Preschool e-mail address**  
Briony.Brooks935@schools.sa.edu.au

- **Enrolment/Attendance**  
The Kindergarten has a capacity of 30 children.

| 2016       | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 | Term 4 |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Enrolment  | 52     | 53     | 50     | 50     |
| Attendance | 96.2   | 94.3   | 86.0   |        |

- **Co-located/stand-alone**  
Stand Alone kindergarten
- **Programs operating at the preschool**

❖ **Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children**

- 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.
- All children will start kindergarten and school on the same day; the first day of Term 1.
- If your child turns 4 on or before April 30, 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 Centrelink documentation stating the child's name and birth date.
- Children attend kindergarten in the year prior to starting school. At Netley Kindergarten children attend two days per week (8:30 – 3:30), with an additional two sessions per term on a Friday from 8:30 – 1:30.
- Under the universal access program 4 year old children are entitled to 15 hours of preschool per week. The centre offers 2 full days in group 1 (Monday and Tuesday) or Group 2 (Wednesday and Thursday).

## **Preschool Program**

Group 1: Mondays and Tuesdays 8:30 – 3:30  
Fridays Week 2 and 6 each term 8:30 – 1:30

Group 2: Wednesdays and Thursdays 8:30 – 3:30  
Fridays Week 3 and 7 each term 8:30 – 1:30

**Bilingual Support:** This program provides support for children from culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds (CALD) who have limited or no English.

**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 preschool support worker, Special Educator, Psychologist, and Speech Pathologist.

**Playgroup:** Operates on a Friday 10:00am – 12:00pm at the kindergarten. Playgroup is staffed with an ECW who programs the experiences and manages the session.

## **2. Statement of Philosophy**

### **A Place to Be, Explore and Grow**

Our vision is for all children to engage in a flexible and enriched natural learning environment to flourish and become confident lifelong learners.

### We Value

- Time for children to be, and to make meaning of their world through their play.
- An enriched, play based, learning environment where all children can develop dispositions for learning such as being curious, confident, a communicator, resourceful, cooperative, purposeful and persistent, and a risk taker.
- Opportunities for children to understand Australia's cultural diversity, and the importance of being inclusive and respectful to all.
- A flexible learning environment to foster children's wellbeing, learning and development.

### We recognise

- That all children have a right to play.
- That children are active participants in their learning, have individual strengths and abilities, and are competent and capable learners.
- That children need opportunities to connect to the natural world, fostering an understanding and respect of the natural environment.
- That the learning dispositions we value will prepare our children for lifelong learning.
- The importance of reflective practices and engage in this to provide quality teaching and learning.

### We will

- Provide an environment where children feel safe, secure and supported to grow in confidence to explore and learn.
- Embed sustainable practices into our curriculum to highlight our responsibilities to care for the environment and provide for a sustainable future.
- Work in partnership and build respectful relationships with families to foster a learning culture.
- Build upon the range of experiences with language, literacy and numeracy that children already have, and encourage positive attitudes and competencies towards these for successful learning.

## Netley Kindergarten – a place to be, explore and grow

### 3. Curriculum

At Netley Kindergarten we use the Early Years Learning Framework so all children can experience play based learning that is engaging and builds success for life. The Early Years Learning Framework describes childhood as a time of **belonging, being** and **becoming**.

**Belonging** is the basis for living a fulfilling life. Children feel they belong because of the relationships they have with their family, community, culture and place.

**Being** is about living here and now. Childhood is a special time in life and children need time to just 'be' – time to play, try new things and have fun.

**Becoming** is about the learning and development that young children experience. Children start to form their sense of identity from an early age, which shapes the type of adult they will become.

Play is very important for children. Through play young children explore and learn to understand the world around them as they come to communicate, discover, imagine and create. When children play they are showing what they have learned and what they are trying to understand.

By working together parents and educators can enhance a child's learning and wellbeing.

Since 2014 we have been working with real purpose and direction for Netley Kindergarten. Our vision statement "that all children engage in a flexible and enriched natural learning environment in order to flourish and become confident lifelong learners" underpins and guides our practice.

"Be Explore Grow" is the phrase that sums up the culture of Netley Kindergarten. Children are given every opportunity to have the time to just 'be' and to make meaning of the world around them. Exploration of their world, the environment and themselves is encompassed in 'explore', and 'grow' is symbolic to the growth of each individual child, both academically and within their emotional intelligence.

In 2015 the kindergarten was assessed under the National Quality Standards and received an overall rating of 'Exceeding' for the next three years. Educators and the Netley community worked together to achieve the priorities of the Quality Improvement Plan. Two overarching goals are in the QIP and are to develop and maintain meaningful and purposeful relationships with children, families, educators and the wider community, and to build a community of learners who will work collaboratively to improve children's learning outcomes.

The Outdoor Redevelopment Phases 1, 2, and 3 are now complete and have been instrumental in providing an array of learning experiences that some children may never have the opportunity to participate in. The Bushland, Produce area and Butterfly Garden are well known and used daily with the children. We are using the ponds in the Bushland area as an opportunity to educate our children about biodiversity and have released the frogs that we reared from tadpoles into this area.

We are also using the produce area (garden beds and chickens) and butterfly garden to educate our children about their role in caring for the land and their responsibility in looking after the environment. In September 2015 we had a grand opening of these outdoor spaces with representatives from many of the local community groups such as West Torrens Council, The Kurna people, DECD, OPAL, Netley Residents Association and NRM. This opening celebration was captured on film and shared with our families and children to celebrate the beautiful spaces that we now have. This first fire lighting film also inspired the creation of a short film about Netley Kindy, its values and philosophy, and the way children learn when interacting in the environment of Netley Kindergarten. This film can be viewed on the website ([www.netleykgn.sa.edu.au](http://www.netleykgn.sa.edu.au))

In 2016 children and educators embarked on experiences 'beyond the fence' which was named by the children as 'The Bridge'. This wilder space is located 900 metres from the kindergarten and children walk to and from this space and spend regular time in this natural environment as part of their preschool program.

Netley Kindergarten is part of the Collaborative Childhood Project – a state wide project based on the Reggio Emilia principles. The research project is about how the context and uniqueness of Netley Kindergarten (nature play and nature pedagogy) can be combined with the Reggio Emilia principles to create an environment for all children to experience a quality education. Part of this project is the redevelopment of the Joe Wells Reserve next to the kindergarten where the Netley children of 2016 have designed the new playspace 'by the children for the children'. The children of 2017 will be involved with West Torrens Council in the construction of the natural playspace, recognising children as competent and active citizens with rights.

## 4. Centre Based Staff

- **Staff Profile**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Director:               | Briony Brooks   |
| Teachers:               | Renee Gordon, Liz Donnellan, Clara N  |
| Early Childhood Worker: | Josie Maiese, Penny Young<br>Emma Golley (Preschool/Playgroup)<br>Penny Young (Preschool Support) |

- **Performance Management Program**

Team and individual staff goals are set and reviewed twice a year

## 5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

Netley Kindergarten is a standalone kindergarten operating in the Western suburbs of Adelaide. The building dates back to the 1970's and is situated on council owned land. It has a proud history of community involvement starting with its inception as a community built and funded kindergarten, and still provides a venue for community events such as elections and Netley Residents Association meetings. It is situated next to a community playground, and behind the airport, which in wet weather is directly under the flight path. The airport uses the roof to monitor noise and collect environmental data for their use. The building comprises a large playroom with two withdrawal rooms. One of these is used as an office, and the other for more explicit teaching experiences. The grounds are large and pleasantly landscaped with a number of large trees for shade. Fixed equipment includes a large sand pit with a pergola, a watercourse leading to the sandpit, a swing area, and shaded play platform. A large, all weather veranda, with blinds, is situated across the front of the veranda. A large outdoor shed provides storage, with two smaller sheds used for storage too. There is one rainwater tank which is used to water the gardens and plants.

- **Centre Ownership**

The Department for Education and Child Development and the West Torrens Council are in partnership.

## 6. Local Community

### General characteristics:

Many of the families accessing Netley kindergarten have parents and other family members that attended the centre and are very proud of the shared history. A large number of these have Greek or Italian background and strong connections to these cultures through language and church, and/or social connections. Increasingly the community is seeing children from a wide array of different backgrounds and cultures including many that are new arrivals to Australia.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool**  
Our Governing Council has a strong emphasis on supporting the kindergarten in the services that are provided.
- **Schools to which children generally transition to from this preschool**  
The majority of our children move on to Plympton International College, Plympton Primary School, Richmond Primary School, St Leonards Primary School, Cowandilla Primary School, Blackforest Primary School and Glenelg Primary School.

## 7. Further Comments

- **Partnership arrangements with other groups**  
The kindergarten runs a popular playgroup each Friday morning from 10:00am until 12:00pm. All members belong to the Playgroup association. The site has employed an ECW to coordinate activities, support parents, liaise with staff and facilitate friendships amongst families.

The building is also used as the meeting place for the Netley Residents Association.

Adelaide Airport has an agreement with Netley Kindergarten in regards to the large gumtree at the rear of the outdoor area. All maintenance and upkeep in regards to this tree is handled by the Airport and access is always available for this to occur.

West Torrens Council owns the land the building is situated on and is supportive of the services the kindergarten provides to the community.