PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 4163
Centre name: Mawson Lakes Preschool

1. General information

- Preschool Director
  Sandra Cattel

- Postal address
  PO Box 6
  Pooraka SA 5095

- Location address
  Garden Tce
  Mawson Lakes SA 5095

- DECD Region
  Northern Adelaide

- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
  13kms

- Telephone number
  08 8359 1343

- Fax number
  08 8359 1254

- Preschool website address:
  www.mawsonlakespre.sa.edu.au
• Preschool e-mail address
dl.4163_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

• Enrolment/Attendance

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<th>Enrolments (past 5 years)</th>
<th>Attendance (as per PSS0790 staffing attendance figures)</th>
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<td>2008 Term 1 98</td>
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• Co-located/stand-alone
Co-located with Mawson Lakes Primary School and Mawson Lakes Community Child Care Centre.
The relationship between the three sites continues to develop as the leadership teams from each site work together to develop a seamless care and education services that meets the needs of families and ensures continuity of care and learning from birth to year 7.

• Programs operating at the preschool
  ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
    Purple Group:  Monday / Tuesday 8.30am – 3.15pm
Wednesday 8.30am – 11.30am (wks. 1,3,5,7,9)

- Green Group: Thursday / Friday 8.30am – 3.15pm
  Wednesday 8.30am – 11.30am (wks. 2,4,6,8,10)

- Lunch/Full Day Program
  Included as part of our sessional preschool program

- Bilingual Support
  Over 25% of our total enrolments are bilingual and many begin preschool with limited or no English. Mawson Lakes Preschool has a diverse mix of cultures and the Bilingual Support Program is accessed regularly for languages including Vietnamese, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Persian, Urdu and Mandarin.

- Preschool Support
  Approximately 15% of our total enrolments have additional needs. Extra support is utilised through the preschool support program for children who meet the criteria. Preschool staff meet regularly with District Support staff to review support for individual children and specialist agencies are regularly involved.
2. **Key Centre Policies**

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

  **Our Vision**

  Our vision at Mawson Lakes Preschool is for our children to become resilient, socially competent individuals with a passion for learning.

  Our vision is supported by the following values
  - Diversity
  - Creativity
  - Independence
  - Curiosity
  - Respect
  - Caring
  - Participation

  Staff in collaboration with Governing Council and families has identified priorities for improvement for 2013. The priorities and strategies for implementation are documented in our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and encompass the seven quality areas. (please refer to the full document on our website):
  - Educational program and practice
  - Children’s health and safety
  - Physical environment
  - Staffing arrangements
  - Relationships with children
  - Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
  - Leadership and service management

3. **Curriculum**

- Framework used:

  The Early Years Framework for Australia (EYLF) – Belonging, Being and Becoming

Core Values

Our vision and values are enacted through the following principles;

- Families are the first and most influential teachers of their children. *(respect)*
- We respect the culture and social context of each family. *(diversity, respect, caring, participation)*
- Our environment nurtures children’s wellbeing and stimulates rich learning experiences. *(caring, curiosity, independence, respect, participation, diversity)*
• Opportunities to engage in a range of social interactions and relationships with others assists children to develop their sense of belonging and identity. (*diversity, independence, respect, caring*)

• A play based curriculum is the foundation of all learning at preschool, catering to the needs and interests of all children. (*participation, creativity, curiosity, independence*)

• We acknowledge children learn in different ways and at an individual pace. (*respect, caring, diversity, participation, curiosity, creativity, independence*)

• Learning should be fun! (*creativity, curiosity, participation, independence, caring*)

• Specific curriculum approaches

  • A play based curriculum is used as the basis for all learning at our preschool. The Early Years Learning Framework is used to document and learning and progress. In line with our Site Improvement Plan the preschool uses a number of tools to assess and document children’s learning including

  • Early Literacy development - with a focus on Oral language, Reading and Writing, using TROLL (Teacher Rating of Oral Language and Literacy) tools

  • Numeracy and Mathematical understanding

  • Social Skill development – using the You Can Do It program.

  • Physical Skill Development

  • Site funding is used to implement literacy, physical and social skills programs for children in their first term of preschool and those who have been identified as needing extra support.
• Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
  • Preschool to School Transition – the preschool staff work closely with the Assistant Principal (Early Years) to ensure transition programs cater for the needs of all children and families
  • Shared learning groups – The preschool and various JP and Primary classes often engage in shared learning experiences. This may be based on a project of work or more flexible learning opportunities as they arise. Regular visits to and from the school are integral to our preschool program

4. Centre Based Staff

• Staff Profile
  Director 1.0
  Teacher 1.0
  ECW 1.0 (permanent)
  ECW 1.0 (permanent)

One ECW position is used to incorporate Finance Officer duties of the Preschool. 0.2 time per fortnight is allocated to the position and backfilled (casual not contract).

• Performance Management Program
  Performance development is consistent with DECD policies and all staff has access to regular feedback and support. Performance management processes are on-going and regular reflection and sharing of new learning occurs during staff meetings.
  Funding for professional development opportunities are included in the centre budget and align to the preschool Site Improvement Plan.

• Access to special support staff
  The preschool makes referrals as necessary to DECD Disability Support Services. The preschool has an excellent relationship with our Disability Coordinator and Speech Pathologist. Each term a review meeting is held to discuss support, new referrals and any issues. Many children who attend Mawson Lakes Preschool have an NEP and regular meetings are held which includes Regional, childcare/school and other agencies involved with the child and family. The preschool also liaises closely with the childcare centre and Assistant Principal (Early Years) of the school to share information and provide for consistent planning and support.
  The preschool has established relationships with Autism SA, Disabilities SA, Novita and these services are accessed as required.
Other
Child and Youth Health – Child and Youth Health utilise the preschool for termly health checks for eligible children

5. Centre Facilities

Buildings and grounds
The preschool began operation in 2004 in class space within the school. In 2007 the preschool moved to its present purpose built site on the school grounds. Inside the preschool is light and airy with two main play areas joined by a short corridor. The preschool does not have any withdrawal rooms and the preschool office is often used. The preschool is air-conditioned and heated and toilets are on recycled water.

The outdoor learning environment has been developed over the last 7 years with a great deal of centre funds being used to provide high quality learning areas.

Capacity (per session)
45 children per session

Centre Ownership
DECD

Access for children and staff with disabilities
Disability access was considered as part of the design (adult toilet doubles as disabled toilet)

Other
The preschool has access to school resources and facilities including Mawson Centre/Book Nook (library), The Denison Centre and playground/oval areas. The preschool also shares some infrastructure with the school including IT connections and phone systems. The preschool is also included as part of the school for security purposes.

The preschool finances are included on the school EDSAS (company 7), but finances are managed by the preschool. One of the ECW positions has finance duties included and funding is allocated in our yearly budget to support this.
6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- **General characteristics:**
  Mawson Lakes is a new and growing suburb approximately 13kms north of Adelaide. It is situated alongside the more established suburbs of Pooraka, Para Hills West, Salisbury and Parafield Gardens. The suburb is a Delfin development and the last blocks of land have only recently been sold and there is still a great deal of building work occurring in the suburb. The population is diverse with a strong International and Defence Force presence. This means that there is a level of transience as many families are located in SA for a short time. Most families would be considered ‘middle to upper income’. The community is also highly culturally diverse with many children accessing preschool with little or no English.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool**
  Over the past seven years the Preschool has enjoyed an extremely active and supportive Governing Council and parent community. The Governing Council are pivotal to the decision making and management of the centre including finance, fundraising, budget and asset management, policy making and implementation. Many families who are on the Preschool Governing Council go on to be members of the school Governing Council and active in the life to the preschool and school community.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool**
  Between 65-75% of children attend Mawson Lakes School. However, there is a growing trend of families choosing private school options.

- **Other local care and educational facilities,**
  The preschool is co-located with Mawson Lakes Community Childcare centre with many families utilising both facilities. Mawson Lakes is also serviced by a number of private childcare centres and one centre provides a bus service for families to our centre. In Mawson Lakes along with the primary school there is a private secondary school (Endeavour College) and the University of South Australia has a strong presence in the community. Mawson Centre is a joint owned facility (DECS/UniSA and Salisbury Council) and the Mawson Lakes School library and community library is housed there. Mawson Centre is a community hub for learning and social activities.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**
  The preschool is located in the centre of Mawson Lakes commercial centre and is well serviced by an array of retail, social and community services.
including a supermarket, specialty shops, cafes/restaurants as well as medical facilities e.g. chemist, medical centre and dentist.

- Other local facilities
  Families in Mawson Lakes have access to a number of local parks, lakes/waterways and golf course. Church groups also operate in the area.

- Accessibility
  The preschool is located near the Mawson Interchange which has excellent rail and bus links to the city and surrounding suburbs.

- Local Government
  Mawson Lakes Preschool is part of the Salisbury Council

7. Further Comments

The Preschool is at capacity, with the preschool currently unable to offer places to all families in the local area. However the Preschool was successful in gaining funding in the 2013/14 State Budget to expand the current building. This means upon completion of building centre capacity would be 66 per session. Work on the expansion is expected to be finalised by mid 2015.