



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 04/2016

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
12 – 28 Garden Tce
Mawson Lakes SA 5095
- DECD Partnership
Hollywood, Lakes and Gardens
- 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

Enrolments (past 5 years)			Attendance (as per PSS0790 staffing attendance figures and data collection submission report)		
2011	Term 1	96	2011	Term 1	86
	Term 2	96		Term 2	87
	Term 3	96		Term 3	88
	Term 4	100		Term 4	88
2012	Term 1	88	2012	Term 1	85
	Term 2	88		Term 2	82
	Term 3	84		Term 3	82
	Term 4	87		Term 4	85
2013	Term 1	72	2013	Term 1	68
	Term 2	95		Term 2	73
	Term 3	82		Term 3	71
	Term 4	67		Term 4	57
2014	Term 1	92	2014	Term 1	83
	Term 2	89		Term 2	82
	Term 3	88		Term 3	79
	Term 4	87		Term 4	82
2015	Term 1	90	2015	Term 1	84
	Term 2	92		Term 2	83
	Term 3	92		Term 3	83
	Term 4	91		Term 4	75

- 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

❖ Playgroup
The preschool is in the process of establishing a playgroup that will run at the site. This is a joint funded program with the school and preschool contributing funds to employ and ECW to be the playgroup coordinator. The playgroup will run on Wednesday afternoons (from 1-2.30pm) and is aimed at families who are on our waiting list for preschool. It is envisaged that the playgroup will be up and running by term 2 2016.

❖ Bilingual Support
Over 49% 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, Japanese, Bosnian, Serbian, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Persian, Urdu, Hindi, Gurjarati and Mandarin.

❖ Preschool Support
Approximately 15% of our total enrolments have additional needs ranging from speech and language difficulties, ASD, global developmental delay, specific medical conditions and behaviour needs. Extra support is utilised through the preschool support program for children who meet the criteria. Preschool staff meet regularly with Disability 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

Staff in collaboration with Governing Council and families has identified priorities for improvement for 2016. 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

In 2015 our preschool was assessed under the NQS and received an Exceeding rating in all areas. Our next scheduled assessment will occur in 2018.

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,*)

- A play based curriculum is the foundation of learning at preschool, catering to the needs and interests of all children (*creativity, curiosity, independence*)
 - We acknowledge children learn in different ways and at an individual pace. (*respect, caring, diversity, curiosity, creativity, independence*)
 - Our environment nurtures children's wellbeing and stimulates rich learning experiences. (*caring, curiosity, independence, respect, diversity*)
 - Opportunities to engage in a range of social interactions and relationships with others assists children to develop their sense of identity and belonging to a community. (*diversity, independence, respect, caring*)
 - Learning should be fun! (*creativity, curiosity, 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 learning and track progress over time. In line with our Quality Improvement Plan the preschool uses a number of tools to assess and document childrens learning including;
 - Early Literacy development - with a focus on Phonolgical awareness using the PASM (Phonological Awareness Skills Mapping) tool
 - Numeracy and Mathematical understanding using The 4 Top 5
 - 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 – Our program includes regular opportunities for all children to participate in transition experiences throughout the year. Children regularly visit the Book Nook, use the play ground and oval and may attend official school events. The preschool staff work closely with the Assistant Principal (Early Years) to ensure transition/orientation programs caters for the needs of all children and families. Preschool staff also assist with class placement at the end of the year.
 - 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

- Early years meetings – the school and preschool early years staff meet on a semi regular basis to discuss curriculum, share information and network

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile

Director	1.0
Teacher	1.0 (permanent)
Teacher	2.0 (contract)
Teacher UA	0.7 (contract)
ECW 1	1.0 (permanent)
ECW 1	1.0 (permanent)
ECW 1 UA	0.1 (contract)
ECW 2	5hours per week (contract)

The ECW 2 is employed as our finance officer and works approximately 5 hours per week including some holiday periods.

- Performance Management Program

Performance development is consistent with DECD policies and all staff have access to regular feedback and support. Performance management processes are ongoing 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 Quality 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 a NEP and regular meetings are held which includes DECD disability support staff, childcare/school and other agencies involved with the child and family. The preschool also liaises closely with the childcare centre and Assistant Principal 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. Due to enrolment pressures the preschool underwent a substantial building extension in 2015 in order to increase our capacity. Inside, the preschool is light and airy with two large play spaces and two smaller withdrawal areas that can also be opened up to create another large play space. The preschool staff have their own office/prep area and there is a separate office for the Director. The preschool has indoor storage with two compactus' and custom fitted large shed. The preschool is airconditioned and heated and toilets are on recycled water.

The outdoor learning environment has been developed over the last 10 years and provides children with a number of natural learning spaces including large covered sandpit and water course area, swings, mud kitchen, climbing log, lawned area, kitchen garden and covered veranda space.

- Capacity (per session)
66 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 and includes a shower and space for a hoist and washing machine/dryer)
- Other
The preschool has access to school resources and facilities including Mawson Centre/Book Nook (library), The Dension 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 is specifically for finance duties and funding is allocated in our yearly budget to support this.

6. Local Community

- General characteristics

Mawson Lakes is a still 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 began as a Delfin development with many subdivisions in the Mawson Lakes area. The suburb consists of high, medium and low density housing options. Many of our families live in apartments or townhouses. At present 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 10 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 of the preschool and school community.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool

Between 75-80% 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 when needed.

In Mawson Lakes the community has access to a DECD primary school and 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 eg 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

Although the preschool has undergone a building expansion which has allowed an increase in capacity our future enrolments indicate that we will continue to be at capacity for at least the next two years. The preschool has in place a priority of access policy and works closely with our Partnership preschools to ensure that children and families have access to a preschool program.