



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 10/06/2015

Centre number: 4630

Centre name: Lobethal Community Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director – Leeanne Munn
- Postal address – 1 Reserve Avenue, Lobethal, 5241
- Location address – 1 Reserve Avenue, Lobethal, 5241
- DECS Region – Torrens Valley Partnership
- Geographical location – approx 42km from GPO in the Adelaide Hills
- Telephone number – 8389 6321
- Fax number – 8389 5153
- Preschool website address: - www.lobethalkgn@sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address - dl.4630_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance - 55
- Co-located/stand-alone – Stand alone
- Programs operating at the preschool
 - ⊞ Pre Entry – not offered at the present, however we run a play and stay session in term 4 as part of our transition to kindy program

- ⊞ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children – Children can attend 15 hours over the following sessional configurations: 2 x full days either Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday/Thursday. Kindergarten Session times are 8.20am to 3.30pm.
- ⊞ Occasional Care – *Not offered*
- ⊞ Extended Care – Not offered
- ⊞ Lunch/Full Day Program - Yes
- ⊞ Bilingual Support - Yes
- ⊞ Preschool Support - Yes

2. Key Centre Policies

- See centre Philosophy Statement
- Quality Improvement Plan Focus areas:
 - ✓ Strong Community Connectedness
 - ✓ Quality Teaching and Learning
 - ✓ Quality Learning Environments

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: - Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
Educators at our site use the EYLF to create a learning environment, which implements the stated principles, practices and learning outcomes. We have a strong child's voice in curriculum programming through emergent planning processes.
Individual learning plans are prepared for each child with short-term specific learning plans created, implemented and reviewed on an ongoing basis.
- Core Values – Trust, Humour, Respect

Joint programmes/special curriculum projects –

“Nature Connect” - An off site bush kindy program piloting in 2015, where sessions are run at the local Bush Land Park. The centre has a very strong nature based program and pedagogy which is constantly evolving.

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“Kindy Connect”- Transition program with Lobethal Primary School. Ongoing transition programming which involves multi layered transitional visits and a focus on continuity of learning across sites. This program will extend in 2015 with the introduction of “The Connected Learning Hub”, incorporating co constructed learning, 21st Century learning and children’s voice across Lobethal Kindergarten, through Lobethal Primary School and into Birdwood High School.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile – Warranted staffing is 2.0- adjusted to 2.5
1.0 Director, 1.0 Teacher, 0.5 ECW: Lunch carers (Early Childhood workers) employed over four days. Support workers as required/allocated.
- Performance Management Program – Based on DECD Performance Management guidelines/procedures. Ongoing cyclic approach based on planning and review meetings throughout the year.

- Access to special support staff – DECD Early Childhood Support Services

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds – The Centre was moved to the current site in 1966. Located in the centre of town, close to the main street. The building and grounds are small, tucked away on a house block amongst houses and adjacent to a small reserve. The indoor area is airconditioned (reverse cycle). The outdoor learning area is easily supervised and well protected from the sun, having large deciduous trees and a shade awning over the sandpit as well as a gazebo, rainwater tank, sensory sustainable garden area, garden beds and a small lawn area.
We have a chook shed, watercourse, boardwalk, mud kitchen (muddy puddles kitchen) and a digging patch, which are all heavily utilised during kindergarten sessions.
- Capacity (per session) - 30
- Centre Ownership - DECD
- Access for children and staff with disabilities – No wheel chair access at present

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: - The Kindergarten serves a growing community, including several smaller townships, orchards and farmlands up to 30kms away. The area is renowned for its apple, pear and cherry orchards, strawberry farms and vineyards. The history of Lobethal has a strong German Heritage, however the majority of families are now Anglo-Australian. We have had recent cultural change with many Vietnamese families moving into the area with contractual employment with Thomas Food International (Abbevoirs). This has provided the community with rich cultural diversity.
Many families commute to the city and out of the area, for work and extended family commitments, but the township of Lobethal still manages to have a very cohesive and co-operative community spirit.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool – There has traditionally been a high level of parent interest and involvement. Community support comes from local Service Clubs, businesses and a general whole community interest in the Kindergarten and willingness to help where possible.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool – Lobethal Primary, Lenswood Primary, Birdwood Primary, Woodside Primary, Oakbank Area School, Kersbrook Primary, Loethal Lutheran, Springhead Lutheran, The Hills Christian School
- Other local care and educational facilities – Lobethal has a number of Family Day Care providers and child care centres located at Gumeracha, Birdwood and Oakbank, all within 15 minutes drive.
 - Lobethal has two primary schools (Government and Lutheran), the nearest highschool is at Birdwood and an area School at Oakbank.
 - Lobethal Primary operates OSHC and Vacation care programs.
 - Families can currently access a privately run bus service to and from Open Arms Child Care Centre in Birdwood.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities – A supermarket is situated a block away from the kindergarten and other shops/facilities include, hardware, bakery, ANZ bank, chemist, post office, newsagency, hairdressers, butchers. Bridgestone tyre centre, petrol station, two mechanic shops and other light industries.
- Other local facilities – Doctors, Dentist, Physio, and Chiropractor, Slot cars, two hotels, Bierhaus, Coffee shop and a weekend run Cinema.

There are two playgrounds located with in the town.

Lobethal's main oval is situated a short 5 minute walk from the main street and is home to Football, Netball, tennis, polocrosse and cricket. Lobethal Lutheran Church also has a netball club. All of these clubs are heavily patronised by a large percentage of the community.

- Availability of staff housing - None
- Accessibility – Adelaide Metro – stops in the main street.
- Local Government - Adelaide Hills Council

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups