



FORBES CHILDREN'S CENTRE PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: MAY 2024

Centre number: 3641

Centre name: Forbes Children's Centre Preschool

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Roslyn Usher / Amy Morgan
- Postal address: 80 Thomas Street, South Plympton 5038
- Location address: 80 Thomas Street, South Plympton 5038
- DECD Partnership: Marion Inland
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 8km south of GPO
- Telephone number: (08) 8293 9000

Preschool website address: www.forbescc.sa.edu.au/

- Preschool e-mail address: info.forbeschildrenscentre854@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance
2023: 50 Preschool Places
Average attendance 2020: 47
- Co-located/stand-alone: Co-located with Forbes Children's Centre Inc. Long Day Care
- Programs operating at the preschool
- Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
- Associated Programs: Pre-entry, early entry, bilingual support
- Long Day Care
- Parenting support and education programs
- Facilitated playgroups
- Health and Allied Health services

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose: Our core belief is that 'children are at the centre of everything we do'. Our Statement of Principles document covers our guiding principles in regards to children, families, community, colleagues and curriculum.
- Site policies are divided into five categories: Curriculum, Health and Safety, Human Resources, Management of Service and Work Health Safety. These policies cover both Department policies (including those required by Regulation 168) and site specific policies.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework
- Core Values: Play-based curriculum and emphasis on child-led inquiry
- Specific curriculum approaches: Marte Meo, Reggio Emilia approach, Playspaces, Responsive Relationships
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects: As per QIP goals

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
Director: 1.0 (Job share)
Preschool teachers: Three PS teachers 0.6, One full-time teacher in the Long Day Care program
ECW: 0.2 (Financial/admin)
Occupational Therapist: 0.3
Speech Pathologist: 0.2
Community Development Coordinator: 1.0
Long Day Care Staff: Approx 40 employed in full time, part-time or casual work
Learning Together Staff 2.0
- Performance Management Program: Staff (under the management of the Director) meet with their immediate line manager every six months. The main emphasis of performance management is the constructive use of people's strengths to identify opportunities for improvement at a site level in addition to personal professional goals, empowerment and encouragement to learn new skills.
- Access to special support staff: where eligible children access individualised planning supported by a range of staff from various multidisciplinary teams.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

Our Centre shares the grounds with the Forbes Primary School. The site was officially opened at the end of 2010 and in December 2020, the site marked its tenth anniversary. There are 3 care and education spaces with one room for children aged 0 – 2, one for children 2 – 3 ½ and an integrated long day care and Preschool room for children aged 3 ½ to school age. The 0 -3 spaces share an outdoor space and the Preschool/Pre-kindy space have their own outdoor play area. There are also several office spaces for community services, leadership and admin staff.

- Capacity (per session): Preschool: 25 children each day (full day sessions 8:00am to 4:00pm with a lunch care session, Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday), whole site capacity each day is 90 children (15 in 0 – 2 space, 30 in 2 – 3 ½ space, 50 in 3 ½ to school age space – inclusive of children attending Preschool)
- Centre Ownership: site is owned by Department for Education
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: Ramp access to community side (where there are stairs), both childcare/preschool side and community side have accessible toilets.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics:

In the Edwardstown, South Plympton, Plympton Park and Ascot Park area there are many houses 50-60 years old. Recently a number of these have been demolished and new townhouses/units built. There are many rental properties with a high proportion of housing trust rental. The area is also popular for new arrivals or students and so many families speak languages other than English with Arabic, Hindi and Mandarin being the main primary languages.

The majority of families attending our services are from Plympton, South Plympton, Edwardstown, Melrose Park, Ascot Park and Park Holme. Due to number of services available at the site, we often receive referrals or interest from families in other suburbs also.

- Parent and community involvement: Parents are encouraged to volunteer their time and skills in care and education spaces or to participate in early learning community programs with their children.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: Our main feeder school is Forbes Primary School, but many children attend other schools in the area including Plympton Primary, Plympton International College and Emmaus.
- Other local care and educational facilities: Forbes Primary School, Ascot Park Kindergarten, Plympton South Kindergarten

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: Close to Forbes Shopping Complex
- Other local facilities: Chemist and supermarket are close by.
- Availability of staff housing: *Not applicable*
- Accessibility: In Metropolitan area
- Local Government: City of Marion

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups
- Forbes Children's Centre offers programs and services for families in partnership with Health SA, CaFHS; DHS; Uniting Communities; UCWB; Foodbank SA; City of Marion Council and other organisations and agencies identified through discussions with the community and families.