



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: August 2020

Centre number: 3622

Centre name: Coromandel Valley Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director Ms Jennifer Melta
- Postal address 9 Sean Court Coromandel Valley SA 5051
- Location address 9 Sean Court Coromandel Valley SA 5051
- Dept. for Education Partnership Mitcham Hills
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO 20km
- Land line Telephone number 8270 2964
- Mobile telephone number 0427 417481
- Preschool website address: www.corovalleykqn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.3622.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance : 60 children
- Co-located/stand-alone : stand alone

Programs operating at the preschool

- Sessional Kindergarten (long day) for eligible children
- Associated Programs **integrated pre-entry, early entry, playgroup**
- Lunch/Full Day Program: Yes
- Bilingual Support : Yes
- Preschool Support : Yes

2. Key Centre Policies

The Centre's Priorities include:

- Current site priorities include higher standards of learner achievement with a focus on literacy and numeracy indicators, maintenance of preschool attendance 93% and improvement to 95%, focus on sustainable practice, improving processes of documenting and analysing children's learning, intentional teaching methodologies and effective performance development processes.
- Embedding the site Vision and Values statements in current practice is a continuing priority, currently being addressed through work with the RRR Involvement Scale, critical reflection and challenge of practice.
- Educators are involved in a critical reflection cycle of improvement and focus on challenge of practice and pedagogical documentation.
- Deprivatising practice is a focus of the Mitcham Hills Partnership and as such has been developing as a site priority since 2015.
- In 2015 the site achieved the standard of "meeting" for each of the 7 National Quality Framework standards.
- The Site Vision & Values Statement was revisited and completed at the beginning of 2017 and reviewed in 2019 to include our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Work is continuing to ensure it is embedded in the daily routines and educator practice.

- **Vision Statement :**

Our vision is to acknowledge each child as a capable and competent learner building on children's individual experiences. Through emergent curriculum, EYLF, Literacy and Numeracy learning indicators, Results Plus, child protection curriculum and researched pedagogical theories such as Reggio Emilia, Empathetic Mindfulness and practices such as behaviour guidance based on The Way to A and Nature Play outdoor education, educators support children to experience intellectual stretch through dynamic, challenging, purposeful play based experiences and a safe, rich learning environment that promotes on going learning, physical and emotional well being and future successes. We have developed and published a Reconciliation Action Plan that is available on our website and is embedded in our daily practices and long term QIP goals.

- **Site Policies and Practices:**

The Governing Council has a cycle of bi- annual review of all site policies and practice statements. The site has been an accredited Sun Safe Site for 10 years. The key site policies are available on the kindergarten web site.

Transition to School Program:

- Connecting with the local community and encouraging families to participate in preschool and playgroup experiences with high quality outcomes for every child has been a priority since 2017. Transition to school has become a high priority for the site. Current work with Coromandel Valley Primary School in partnership developing our joint capacity to provide a

rich and engaging transition to school program for each child during term 4 each year. Children are able to attend 2 Kindy at Coro Primary days with the kindergarten staff participating in the daily activities of school and developing new relationships with reception teachers, leadership and their peers.

3. Curriculum

- Frameworks used: Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), Assessing for Learning and Development in the Early Years using Observation Scales: Reflect, Respect, Relate (RRR), Child Protection Curriculum, Literacy and Numeracy Indicators.
- Core Values: Respect; Strong dispositions for learning; Co-operation; Confidence; Safe practices
- Specific curriculum approaches:
Reggio Emilia – children are capable on competent learners able to design and engage in curriculum- emergent curriculum and child voice,
EYLF–sense of identity, strong focus on wellbeing through Empathetic Mindfulness and The Way to A, physical wellbeing with outdoor education - Nature Play and sustainability practices, Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects: Child Youth Health nurse visits for 4 year old health and development check, little athletics program in term 1, transition to school program in term 4 in partnership with Coromandel Valley Primary School. (Some programs have been postponed or modified during COVID)
- The Kindergarten is based in the Mitcham Hills and as has a high level of rainfall, very cold weather through autumn and winter and is in a Bushfire zone. The yard has a large, undulating outdoor play space and a strong focus on Nature Play and learning in the outdoor environment including nature walks, gardening and sustainable practices with water useage.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile: 2020 – 1.0 Dir / 2 part-time Teachers / 0.4 Universal Access Teacher /0.8 ECW / 0.1Playgroup Coordinator.
- Performance Management Program: minimum of two review meetings per year, including one written feedback. Each staff member develops their own performance improvement plan form the Df E template which links to the site QIP as well as their personal and professional goals
- The site has a strong commitment to professional development, deprivatisation of practice, critical reflection and shared leadership.

- Access to special support staff: Children may be referred for preschool support where necessary, including access to speech pathology, early childhood psychologist and hearing impairment support. An Early Childhood Worker is allocated with support hours dependent on the needs of children currently enrolled. Other non government services may support children through the centre.
- Other: Finance Officer, Cleaner and Gardener.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds: Sloped; well developed and major outdoor upgrades 2011. Continued improvements in 2016/17 included new sun shades and retaining wall / garden beds. New air conditioners installed 2012
- Capacity (per session): 30
- Centre Ownership: Department for Education
- Access for children and staff with significant mobility restrictions is difficult due to sloping grounds and split level steps in main building.
- Children's bathroom was upgraded in 2013. There are two individual cubicle toilets and three hand basins. The staff has a separate adult toilet and hand washing facilities.
- There is a separate kitchen area used for lunches, planning and some resource storage. The kitchen area was upgraded in 2020.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments): Anglo-Saxon; high number of two parent families, an increasing portion of shared parenting families, Guardian of the Minister families and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. A significant number of extended family members support children with access to Kindergarten sessions through drop off and pick up support.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool: high level involvement on Governing Council, fundraising and as volunteers supporting curriculum and site infrastructure such as excursions and working bees.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool: Coromandel Valley Primary School, Craighburn Primary School.
- Other local care and educational facilities, eg child care, schools, OSHC: Blackwood Good Start Childcare Centre, Blackwood Community Childcare Centre, Belair Primary School,

Blackwood Primary School, Eden Hills Primary School, Bellevue Heights Primary School, Hawthorndene Primary School, Coromandel Primary School OSHC

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities: local bakery, vet, mechanical repairs and butcher approximately 1.2km away. The major shopping precinct at Blackwood is approx 4km away. Other local facilities, eg medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational: Blackwood Medical Centre, Blackwood Recreation Centre, Blackwood Library, Aberfoyle Hub Library, Coromandel Valley Community Centre
- Availability of staff housing: N/A
- Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality: By train (30 mins) or bus (60 mins) from Blackwood.
- Local Government: City of Onkaparinga

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups: Coromandel Valley Kindergarten is a “stand-alone” centre situated within an established suburb amongst residential homes. The building is split-level and consists of 3 main rooms with stairs between two of them. The outdoor area is large, sloping and well landscaped with many mature shade trees. The majority of families are drawn from Coromandel Valley, with a mixture from Happy Valley, Reynella, Aberfoyle Park and Craighburn Farm.
- The kindergarten is full time with longer day sessions offered on Monday and Tuesday or Wednesday and Thursday 8.15am to 3.45pm. Early Entry and Pre Entry are available to families that meet the eligibility criteria. All children intending to attend the Kindergarten are offered Pre-entry sessions in term 4 of the preceeding year to starting fulltime kindergarten sessions.