Centre number: 3661

Centre name: Mount Compass Preschool

1. General information

- Centre name
  Mount Compass Preschool
- Centre number
  3661
- Preschool Director
  (Ms) Jay Elmslie
- Postal address
  P.O. Box 82 Mount Compass Preschool 5210
- Location address
  Oval Rd. Mount Compass 5210
- Telephone number
  85568342
- Fax number
  85568085
- e-mail address
  kindy.director@mtcompasspre.sa.edu.au
- DETE District
  Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
  60kms.
- Enrolment/Attendance
  28 children
- Co-located/stand-alone
  stand alone
- Programs operating
- Pre Entry
  Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings. The number of pre entry sessions vary according to current preschool enrolments and staffing.
- **Preschool Sessions**
  5 sessions-Tuesday and Thursday morning and afternoon sessions, Wednesday morning session only.

- **Lunch/Full Day Program**
  children attending afternoon session stay for lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays

- **Bilingual Support**
  available when required

- **Preschool Support**
  Support is offered on by Regional Staff when required. Speech pathology and educational psychology services are available. Families with children who have additional needs are encouraged to make contact with the preschool prior to time of enrolment.

- **Playgroup**
  A playgroup operates in the preschool building on Fridays 9.30-11.30. The Co-ordinator is Meagan Harrison. Playgroup is $25 per term or $3.00 per Friday plus playgroup association insurance costs. All welcome, just drop in on any Friday during the preschool term.

**Key Centre Policies**

At Mt Compass preschool we aim to foster the positive and holistic growth of all children in our care as they transition from home to preschool and from preschool to school through a well resourced quality preschool program. We provide a welcoming environment, working in partnership with families and the local community by valuing their input in providing a quality preschool program within a safe, caring, responsive and stimulating environment.

The centre has a strong commitment to healthy eating and physical activity and was recently involved in a project around these themes. This focus is also reflected in the general community which often comes together in outdoor, physical and sporting events.

Relationships are central to our work as educators and carers. The staff strive to promote supportive, inclusive, sensitive and respectful relationships between all stakeholders. ‘The relationships we build and the style of our interactions with young children are critical to their present and future wellbeing, to their learning, their development and their social competence.’ (Reflect, Relate, Respect document p.33)

**Curriculum**

‘Belonging, Being and Becoming’ National Early Years Learning Framework

The National Curriculum Framework provides the basis for planning our education and care programs. We provide an educational program that
values play; individuality; inclusiveness; and the development of self esteem and self motivation for children in the year prior to starting school. We also cater for early and extended enrolment for children with special needs and for Aboriginal children from 3 years of age.

Staff have been trained in using the ‘Reflect, Respect, Relate’ resource. This enables staff to assess the learning and development of children during their time at preschool using Observation Scales. Regional Staff assist in gathering data through observation and videos. Data collected tells us about: the quality of the learning environment offered at the centre; the quality of relationships existing between children, staff, and parents/families; the levels of involvement experienced by children at the centre and the levels of wellbeing. Information from these four domains: wellbeing, relationships; active learning environment; and involvement, is used in evaluation, assessment and planning at the centre.

Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
  2 staff- .5 Director .5 Teacher, currently employed .6 to cater for increased enrolments.

- Access to special support staff
  Support staff (DECS speech pathologist visit and Educational Psychologist) are available to assist children and families with special needs. Support staff visit the preschool throughout the year according to the current needs of the centre. Additional staff may be employed at the centre to meet special needs of children enrolled.

Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  The centre building is owned by DECS and was opened in 1980. The land is leased from the local community. Extensions have occurred in recent years to add some additional space to the inside area and also to extend the verandah and paving which overlooks a spacious outdoor area. The outdoor area includes a large sandpit, jetty, boat, bridge, play platform and wooden cubby, native trees and open space.
  Staff and Governing Council members are currently involved in redeveloping the outside play area.
- **Site Capacity (per session)**
  
  21 children

- **Centre Ownership**
  
  DECS

- **Access for children and staff with disabilities**
  
  wheelchair access

### Local Community

- **General characteristics:**

  Mount Compass Preschool is a small rural preschool catering for families within the Mount Compass, Nangkita, Yundi, Mount Jagged, Myponga, Goolwa and Aldinga areas. Occupations of families range from farming, local and small business to city and suburban employment. The preschool is mainly accessed by car, and some children catch local school bus in the mornings with older siblings.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool**

  The town of Mt Compass enjoys a high level of community spirit and participation. Parents participate in the preschool through Governing Council, fundraising events, excursions and involvement in other educational activities and practical support.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool**

  The vast majority of children enrol in Mount Compass Area School, which is situated alongside the Preschool. Children also transfer to Tatachilla Lutheran School, Encounter Lutheran School, Galilee Catholic School and Investigator College.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**

  The Mt Compass Area School is situated alongside the preschool and is a Reception to Year 12 site. There is one family day care facility run from a community building close to the preschool.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

  There is a small group of local shops nearby and local businesses eg. Strawberry farm and blueberry farms, venison, alpacas and dairy farming.

- **Other local facilities, eg medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational**

  Doctor's Surgery, local community hall, oval and sporting complex.

- **Availability of staff housing**

  None
• Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres
  Public Transport is available to Victor Harbor and Adelaide.
• Local Government
  District Council of Alexandrina 85552202. A Family and Community Directory is available free from the council, linking families and the community.