PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT Updated: 8/2016

Centre number: 3661
Centre name: Mount Compass Preschool

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
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  e-mail address
  Jay.Elmslie420@schools.sa.edu.au
  DETE District
  Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island
  Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
  60kms.
  Enrolment/Attendance
  29 children
  Co-located/stand-alone
  :stand alone
  Programs operating
  Preschool Sessions
  Monday – Wednesday. All children are able to access 30 hours of
  preschool over a two week period. Children can attend three full
  days in odd weeks of term and two full days in even weeks of
  term.
  Lunch/Full Day Program
  Full day sessions include lunch
  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-
The Co-ordinators are Chantal Jong and Kate Smith. 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. 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. Educators 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 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 enrolment for children with special needs and for Aboriginal children from 3 years of age.

All 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
3 educators− part time Director, Teacher and Early Childhood Worker
We also usually have support staff/lunch care staff
Access to special support staff
Support staff (DECD 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 DECD 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, swings, native trees and open space. Educators and Governing Council members are currently involved in redeveloping the outside play area.

Site Capacity (per session)
25 children (this includes ‘provisional savings’)

Centre Ownership
DECD

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.

Family and community involvement in the preschool
The town of Mt Compass enjoys a high level of community spirit and participation. Families participate in the preschool through Governing Council, fundraising events, working bees, 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.

Outside School Hours Care
This service is offered by Mount Compass Area School and can be accessed by preschool families. Both before and after school care is available. Children are brought to preschool and collected from preschool by the OSHC Director.
Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
There is a small group of local shops nearby and local businesses eg. Strawberry farm and blue berry 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.