

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 9/12/2024

Centre number: 3629

Centre name: Flagstaff Hill Kindergarten

1. General information

- **Preschool Director:** Clare Crew
- **Postal address:** 15 Renwick Street, Flagstaff Hill SA 5159
- **Location address:** 15 Renwick Street, Flagstaff Hill SA 5159
- **DfE Region:** Southern Adelaide
- **Geographical location:** 25 Kms from GPO
- **Telephone number:** 8270 1268
- **Preschool website address:** www.flaghillkgn.sa.edu.au
- **Preschool e-mail address:** dl.3629.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- **Enrolment/Attendance:** 44
- **Co-located/stand-alone:** stand-alone
- **Programs operating at the preschool:**
 - **Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children**
Monday and Tuesday, 8:30am until 4pm
Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30am until 4pm
 - **Bilingual Support** as required – funded by DfE
 - **Preschool Support** as required – funded by DfE
 - **Playgroup** runs during term time Fridays 9:30 to 11am

2. Key Centre Policies

Service Philosophy

Play

We recognise play as a biological necessity throughout childhood. Play supports children's identity, wellbeing and development, while nurturing dispositions for lifelong learning. Educators at Flagstaff Hill Kindergarten are intentional in providing spaces, materials, time and permission for children to play. We honour children's agency to ensure their engagement is meaningful, inclusive and intrinsically motivating.

Relationships

Flagstaff Hill Kindergarten is a welcoming and inclusive environment which values each child's connection with family, community, culture and place. A strengths-based approach celebrates and builds upon children's skills, knowledge and dispositions. Educators scaffold the development of children's social and emotional capabilities by being attuned and responsive to their thoughts, feelings and experiences. We 'lift up' communication to support children to learn with and from their peers. Children's relationship to nature and place is explored through our Bush Kindy program and engagement with local Aboriginal peoples. As a community, we collectively develop our knowledge of Kaurna history, culture and language.

Nature & Sustainability

We create opportunities for children to explore and interact with the natural environment. Through our Bush Kindy program, children develop a sense of place through active learning in the elements. We believe nature play nurtures children's sensory systems, while strengthening their physical development, dispositions for learning, and care for Country. Our site is committed to the continued improvement of sustainability practices. We engage with Green Adelaide, enact a Sustainability Action Plan and access professional learning to support this focus.

3. Curriculum

- Mandatory Frameworks used:
 - Early Years Learning Framework - Belonging, Being and Becoming
 - Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum
- Bush Kindy:

- Runs during Term 2 and 3
- Children and educators spend one day a week immersed in nature (Tuesdays and Thursdays)
- Operates onsite in our back garden and includes bush walks and exploration in Sturt Gorge (pathway access runs next to kindy)

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile:
 - Full time Director, 4 part time teachers and 2 part time Early Childhood Workers (educators)
- All staff members are supported through the DfE Performance Management Program at six monthly intervals
- Access to special support staff via DfE as required

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

Flagstaff Hill Kindergarten was established at its current location in 1975 and the building is owned by the Department for Education. It is situated in a quiet, leafy suburban street, within walking distance to the local primary school and shops. It boasts beautiful learning spaces both indoors and outdoors, including a back garden called 'Yeltanna Wirra' (meaning 'cool dry airy place') where a Bush Kindy program runs onsite.

- Capacity (per session) - 30
- Centre Ownership - DfE - Department for Education
- Access for children and staff with disabilities
 - New stairs with handrail installed in main yard in 2023, to support accessibility for all community members
 - There is no disabled toilet onsite, or nappy change facilities
 - Participation in the Bush Kindy program requires a degree of physical strength and fitness

6. Local Community

- General characteristics:
- The majority of families speak English at home, however there has been an increase in enrolments of children from varying cultural and linguistic backgrounds.
- Parent and wider community are involved in the preschool through Governing council, playgroup, fundraising and special events.
- Our main feeder schools are Flagstaff Hill R-7 School & Craighburn Primary School, with a small portion of children transitioning to non-government schools.

7. Further Comments

- Flagstaff Hill Kindergarten is a part of the South Valley Partnership
- The kindergarten fosters close relationships with Foundation classes at Flagstaff Hill R-7 School. This includes class visits to our site and transition conversations between teachers.