

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/2015

Centre number: 4602

Centre name: Aldgate Kindergarten

1. General information

- Centre name
: Aldgate Kindergarten
- Centre number
: 4602
- Preschool Director
: Bianca Stanbridge
- Postal Address
: 3 Fairview Road, Aldgate 5154
- Location Address
: 3 Fairview Road, Aldgate 5154
- Courier
: Adelaide Hills
- Telephone number
: 83393864
- Fax number
: 83701029
- DECD District
: Adelaide Hills
- Distance from Adelaide CBD
: 22 km
- Staffing Numbers
: 1.0 contract Director, 1.0 permanent Teacher, 0.4 contract Teacher, 0.5 contract ECW
- Programs operating at the centre, with a brief description each:
 - ❖ Universal Access to preschool – 30 hours/fortnight
Children may attend one of two groups: Mondays and Thursdays 8:30am-3:30pm plus 2 x 5 hour Fridays per term, OR Tuesdays and Wednesdays 8:30am-3:30pm plus 2 x 5 hour Fridays per term.
 - ❖ Pre Entry / orientation to Kindergarten
Orientation programs are offered to children prior to starting their preschool year, dependant on the number of current preschool enrolments so as to not exceed

centre capacity. Priority is given to children with additional needs (Early Entry) and those turning four the year prior to their eligible preschool year.

❖ Other Services available

- Playgroup sessions are offered on a Friday morning. The ECW acts as coordinator for this group.
- CaFHS four year old health checks are undertaken at the kindergarten once per term. A CaFHS clinic is located at nearby Heathfield Primary School.

• Enrolment/Attendance trends

. Enrolments of four year olds each year range from 44-62 children. Centre capacity is 31 children at any given time. The centre does not have any attendance issues other than for sickness or family holidays during term-time.

2. Children

• General characteristics

The children come from a variety of backgrounds, predominantly from two-parent families. A high proportion of those families have two incomes.

• Special Needs support

The support for children with special needs is provided both from within the staff team and through specialist staff and Early Intervention grants provided by DECD.

• Behaviour Guidance

An important outcome we want of our program is that the children will feel safe at all times. To achieve this outcome we have a behaviour guidance policy that is an integral part of our program.

Key Centre Policies

• Quality Assurance Processes

Aldgate Kindergarten provides a service which focuses on quality learning outcomes for all children, monitoring the performance of targeted groups of children and information is gathered and critically analysed to better inform practices and priorities (Quality Improvement Plan)

All staff are committed to critical reflection for continuous improvement and public accountability and the processes are made explicit for monitoring, reviewing and reporting children's progress.

The core business and current service priorities are made public and achievements and emerging issues for further improvement publically reported. Feedback is initiated, gathered and acted upon.

Processes we use to ensure quality assurance within our service include our Statement of Philosophy, Quality Improvement Plan and Annual Report, and efficient information management. A strong focus is on children's learning, relationships with families and environmental sustainability.

• Site Priorities

Please visit our website to read our Quality Improvement Plan www.aldgatekgn.sa.edu.au

- Statement of Philosophy
Please visit our website to read our current statement of philosophy www.aldgatekqn.sa.edu.au

4. Curriculum

“In the early childhood setting curriculum means ‘all the interactions, experiences, activities, routines and events, planned and unplanned, that occur in an environment designed to foster children’s learning and development’.” (Adapted from Te Whariki, cited in Belonging, Being, Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia)

Framework used: Belonging, Being, Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia.

- Children with additional needs
The centre supports children with additional needs using both funding from DECD and the site budget. Using these funds we employ a Preschool Support Worker to provide 1:1 support for these children.

- Assessment procedures and reporting

The educators assess children’s learning in a wide variety of ways. Educator reflections are reviewed and assessed at planning meetings, with strategies put in place as necessary. The educators frequently discuss children’s wellbeing and engagement in the learning program and reflect on the suitability of what we provide and how we deliver it.

The educators collect information on the children and collate much of this in children’s Learning Journals in a chronological order, to demonstrate distance travelled and provide children and their families with a record of the child’s time at kindergarten. Data includes: a parent questionnaire given on enrolment; notes on discussions with parents; observations; checklists; phonological awareness screenings; children’s work; photographs, learning stories. Learning journals are borrowed by children and their families throughout the year.

Children’s data / information collected is used to plan a curriculum to meet the children’s individual needs. Individual learning plans are established and appropriate activities are planned by staff in a range of curriculum areas.

In the child’s final term a summative report is sent home and includes all the relevant information on the child for the parents and reception teacher. Parents have the opportunity to provide their own comments before returning, and kindy then sends the completed reports to the school teachers.

6. Staff

- Staff Profile (Status, classification/award, employment details)

Director	Contract	1.0
Teacher	Permanent	1.0
UA Teacher	Contract	0.4
ECW	Contract	0.5

- Performance Planning

Each staff member has a scheduled performance planning meeting with the director and at least one further meeting later in the year. Meetings are documented and goals are linked to the Quality Improvement Plan as well as personal career goals.

- Access to special support staff

The kindergarten has access to the team of specialist staff from the Adelaide Hills Partnership: speech pathologists, psychologists, social workers and the special education consultant.

There are also many local private speech pathologists and the Community Health Centre at Mt. Barker.

7. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

Aldgate Kindergarten is a stand-alone centre situated on the grounds of Aldgate Primary School. "Stand-alone" refers to the Kindergarten being managed by its own director and Governing Council, rather than by the school principal and their Governing Council. The kindergarten moved to its current site in April 2007. The outdoor area was landscaped and fenced just prior to the move, and since that time the outdoor learning area has become a highly valued resource that aligns with the centre's Statement of Philosophy and Quality Improvement Plan priorities.

- Capacity

The building has a capacity for 31 children at a time.

- Centre Ownership

The centre is owned by DECD

- Access for children and staff with disabilities

There is access for people with disabilities.

8. Centre Operations

- Constitution

The current Constitution was amended in 2007, and is retained at the centre

- Decision making structures

Kindergarten Governing Council

- Regular Publications

Regular publications include a Parent Information Booklet, newsletter and additions to the Kindergarten blog

- Other communication processes

Other communication processes include face-to-face conversations, detailed information on the notice board by the entrance, displays of children's work, assessment of children's development, summative reports, photos, special notices sent out regarding topics of educational (or other) importance, and speakers at parent gatherings

- Centre financial position

Aldgate Kindergarten is financially sound and is funded by DECD, kindergarten fees, and parent fundraising when required for special projects.

- Special funding

Early Intervention Grants, Early Years Literacy Grant

9. Local Community

- General characteristics: (eg. work, languages, culture)

The local community is made up of many families of Anglo-Saxon background whose first language is English, however there are also many other cultures represented in the community. The majority of families live in the local townships of Aldgate, Heathfield, Mylor, Stirling, Bridgewater and Crafers, however there are also families from Lobethal, Uraidla and beyond who choose the Kindergarten for their child. Many working parents travel to Adelaide for employment. Many families have two working parents and the Aldgate Primary School Out of School Hours Care program is readily accessed at the school for both before and after school care.
- Feeder schools / preschools / child-care / OSHC

Aldgate Kindergarten has 12 feeder schools in the hills area, 8 of which are government schools. There are 3 other government preschools feeding into these schools, and a Montessori school nearby. The kindergarten prioritises the strengthening of connections with all local feeder schools.

There are 2 local Childcare facilities accessed by kindergarten families. There are also some family day care providers. OSHC is offered at Aldgate Primary school for up to six four-year-old children per session.
- Parent and community involvement.

Parents and grandparents are an integral part of the Kindergarten program, and are always welcomed to work in partnership with staff in the educational process of their child. They share their skills, time and their friendship generously, and are well aware of the high esteem in which they are held. Volunteers to our kindergarten are required to have DCSI clearance before working in our preschool or joining our Governing Council.

Likewise, the community in general are very supportive. Community involvement has included taking part in The Stirling Christmas Parade, the Stirling Market, and programs offered by the local schools.
- Other local facilities

A toy library is situated in Aldgate.
- Access to bus transport (eg. Centre bus, community bus)

1km to nearest bus-stop at Aldgate Village.
- Local Government body

Adelaide Hills Council