

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

UPDATED:2025

Centre number: 4613

Centre name: Dernancourt Kindergarten

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Preschool Director: Natalie Stormonth
- Postal Address: 10 Vernons Drv, Highbury 5089
- Location Address: 10 Vernons Drv, Highbury 5089
- DECD Region: Northern Region
- Geographical location – road distance from GPO 13.7km
- Telephone number: (08) 8264 6652
- Preschool website address: www.dernancrtkgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool email address: Natalie.Stormonth479@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance:
Enrolment trends include 33 children in a session (up to 66 children enrolled) by the end of the calendar year.
- Stand alone preschool
- Programs operating at the preschool, currently operating as a full time centre.

Sessional Kindergarten children are eligible to begin at the start of the year at age 4 (or turning age 4 by the end of April 30th). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and/or Children in Care are eligible to begin at age 3.

Children turning 4 between 1st May and 30th September are eligible to begin sessional kindergarten mid year.

Monday – Thursday 8.15 – 3.45pm

Transitions Visits based on availability.

Preschool Support and intervention is provided when required during preschool sessions.

Playgroup is available Friday mornings fortnightly on a school term 'odd week' schedule. An Early Childhood Worker is employed to oversee the playgroup. An approved volunteer facilitates the program. Playgroup runs from 9.30am – 11.30am during the South Australian school term.

Playgroup children must be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for the supervision of their own child or those in their care. All families are required to have ambulance cover.

CAYHS Screenings occur each term depending on availability.

DfE Support Services Team include; Speech Pathologist, Psychologist, Behaviour Support Coach, and Special Educator are part of the support services team who are available if required upon request.

2. KEY CENTRE POLICIES

- Preschool Quality Improvement Plan 2025 available on the website
- Annual Report available on the website
- A range of policies are available on the website and in a hard copy format on site
- Site Philosophy available in the Information Handbook

3. CURRICULUM

- **Framework used:** Early Years Learning Framework – Being, Belonging, Becoming
- **Respect, Reflect, Relate:** Observation Scales
- **Department of Education:** Numeracy and Literacy Indicators
- **Core Values:**
To provide education and care for preschool aged children in a safe, nurturing, adventurous learning environment that fosters children’s curiosity, wonder and awe.
Centre Philosophy available on website (Information Handbook)
- Specific Curriculum Approaches:
Play Based Learning
Aboriginal and Indigenous Perspectives
Keeping Safe: The Child Protection Curriculum
Differentiated Approach/Special Rights – individual learning plans, pre-school support.
- **Joint programmes/special curriculum projects** include collaborating with the Felixstowe 2 Portfolio Educator Networks.

4. CENTRE BASED STAFF

- **Educational Staff Profile**
Director (PSD1)
Teacher (2 x .6)
Early Childhood Worker (2 x contract position)
Preschool Support Worker (2 x on a need basis)
Bilingual Support Worker (on a need basis)
- **Ancillary Staff**
Finance Officer (paid accountant)
Treasurer (contract)
Cleaner (contract)
Grounds person (casual basis)

- **Performance management Program**

The Site Leader at Dernancourt Kindergarten has a personal development plan, which is discussed in consultation with the District Regional Education Director twice a year. The practices and policies at Dernancourt Kindergarten are guided by the National Quality Framework (NQF), which aims to raise quality and drive continuous improvement and consistency in education and care services.

Staff participate in performance management meetings with the Site Leader (Director) twice a year. During these meetings, they are encouraged to identify their strengths and areas for development. Educators receive ongoing feedback about their performance.

The parent opinion survey is distributed to parents in Term 3 each year, providing valuable feedback and the opportunity for educators to be responsive to the suggestions and issues raised by families when planning for improvement. The site prides itself on maintaining ongoing conversations with families, ensuring a collaborative approach to site management and improvement.

- **Preschool Support**

Early intervention and special rights support are available for children requiring assistance with disabilities, speech and language difficulties, global developmental delay, and social and emotional development. Support programs are integrated into the preschool sessions, and a preschool support worker is employed to assist children with additional needs and implement individual learning programs.

5. CENTRE FACILITIES

- **Buildings and grounds**

Building is in sound condition and is 52 years old. Grounds are aesthetically pleasing with a large lawn area, undercover soft fall area, covered sandpit and play area.

- Capacity (per session): 33 children
- Centre Ownership: DfE
- Access for children and staff with disabilities.

Entry is on Silverlake Crescent via main gate and double door off ramp. Disability access to toilets.

6. LOCAL COMMUNITY

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

GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council is elected at the Annual General Meeting held at the beginning of each year. The council consists of volunteers willing to help with:

- The finance and administration
- The curriculum and outcomes for children
- The development and maintenance of the grounds and buildings
- The fundraising for the centre

The Governing Council and staff work closely together. The Governing Council meetings are held twice a term at the kindergarten, at a time that suits the majority. This is a rewarding experience, and it ensures that families have an opportunity to be involved in the service, and to contribute to service decisions.

All parents/caregivers are welcome to attend any governing council meetings.

Please see staff for more information.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool**
DfE schools – Dernancourt, Highbury, Paradise, East Marden, Modbury Special School, Athelstone, Ardtornish, Thorndan Park
Independent Schools- Torrens Valley, St Ignatius, St Francis of Assisi, St Josephs (Tranmere, Hectorville), St Davids, Cedar College, Pedare, St Pius X, Kings Baptist, St Francis Xavier, Good Shepherd Lutheran,
- **Local Government** – Tea Tree Gully Council