

# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated:2016

**Centre number: 6608**

**Centre name: Booleroo Centre and District Kindergarten**

## 1. General information

- **Preschool Director:** Kerry Thomas
- **Postal address:** PO Box 42 Booleroo Centre SA 5482
- **Location address:** 1 North Road Booleroo Centre SA 5482
- **Telephone number:** (08) 8667 2055
- **Fax number:** (08) 8667 2039
- **e-mail address:** dl.6608.director@schools.sa.edu.au
- **DECD Region:** Flinders Partnership [Region 12]
- **Distance from Adelaide GPO:** 258km
- **Average Enrolment:** 10-16 (Kindergarten) / 4-10 (Rural Care)
- **Co-located/stand-alone:** Co-located with Booleroo Centre District School
- **Governance:** The Centre is managed by the Kindy, Rural Care and Playgroup Committee which consists of the Director, staff representative and parents representing Booleroo Kindy, Booleroo Rural Care, Melrose Rural Care and Booleroo Playgroup. The Committee reports to the Booleroo Centre District School Governing Council.
- **Programs operating:**

### **Preschool (Kindergarten):**

A Preschool program is offered for eligible children who are or will turn 4 years old before the 1<sup>st</sup> May. Preschool sessions are held every Tuesday and Thursday as well specified Mondays during school terms. Session times are 8.45am-3.15pm.

### **Rural Care:**

Rural Care (long day care) is offered for children aged 6 months-5 years. Before and After School Care and Vacation Care is offered for school children aged 5-12 years. Rural Care operates Monday-Friday 8am-6pm during terms and school holidays. The service closes for approximately 2 weeks over the Christmas/New Year period. Care is available subject to availability and families wanting care are asked to register children on our Waiting List. We follow the Federal Government Priority of Access Policy when offering care places. The Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate are available to most families through the Department of Human Services.

### **Melrose Rural Care:**

The centre incorporates a Rural Care service operating at Melrose.

### **Playgroup:**

Playgroup operates from 9.30-11am on Wednesdays during school terms.

### **Preschool Support:**

Children attending preschool (kindy) may be eligible for funded support for speech and language, behaviour and other needs. Individual support programs for eligible children are prepared by DECD Speech Pathologists, Attendance and Engagement Officers, Behaviour Support Coaches, Psychologists, Social Workers, Special Educators and Hearing specialists. The programs are delivered during preschool sessions by qualified preschool educators.

### **Child Health and Development (CHAD - GP Plus Port Pirie):**

Referrals to the CHAD team can be made for children in both Rural Care and Preschool who require Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and support for Behaviour/Mental Health issues.

### **Child and Family Health Services:**

CAFHS offer 4-Year Old Checks to all Preschool children. Checks are carried out at the centre by a CAFHS nurse with a parent/caregiver present.

## **2. Key Centre Policies**

- The centre operates under DECD policies. These are available at [www.decd.sa.gov.au](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au)
- Refer to website [www.boolerookgn.sa.edu.au](http://www.boolerookgn.sa.edu.au) for site specific policies for:
  - Nutrition
  - Sun Protection
  - Hot Weather
  - Behaviour Code
  - Complaints
  - Statement of Philosophy

## **3. Curriculum**

Our work is underpinned by the **Early Years Learning Framework** Principles, Practices and Outcomes, the 6 Guiding Principles of the **National Quality Framework**, and the Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics.

<b>EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK</b>		
<b><u>PRINCIPLES</u></b>	<b><u>PRACTICES</u></b>	<b><u>OUTCOMES</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships</li><li>○ Partnerships with families</li><li>○ High expectations and equity</li><li>○ Respect for diversity</li><li>○ Ongoing learning and reflective practice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Holistic approaches</li><li>○ Responsiveness to children</li><li>○ Learning through play</li><li>○ Intentional teaching</li><li>○ Learning environments</li><li>○ Cultural competence</li><li>○ Continuity of learning and transitions</li><li>○ Assessment for learning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Children have a strong sense of identity.</li><li>○ Children are connected with and contribute to their world.</li><li>○ Children have a strong sense of wellbeing.</li><li>○ Children are confident and involved learners.</li><li>○ Children are effective communicators.</li></ul>
<b>GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The rights and best interests of the child are paramount.</li><li>○ Children are successful, competent and capable learners.</li><li>○ Principles of equity, inclusion and diversity underpin the National Law.</li><li>○ Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are valued.</li><li>○ The role of parents and families is respected and supported.</li><li>○ Best practice is expected in the provision of education and care services.</li></ul>		

## CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA CODE OF ETHICS

- Each child has unique interests and strengths and the capacity to contribute to their communities.
- Children are citizens from birth with civil, cultural, linguistic, social and economic rights.
- Effective learning and teaching is characterised by professional decisions that draw on specialised knowledge and multiple perspectives.
- Partnerships with families and communities support shared responsibility for children’s learning, development and wellbeing.
- Democratic, fair and inclusive practices promote equity and a strong sense of belonging.
- Respectful, responsive and reciprocal relationships are central to children’s education and care.
- Play and leisure are essential for children’s learning, development and wellbeing.
- Research, inquiry and practice-based evidence inform quality education and care.

- **Specific curriculum approaches**

We use the Preschool Indicators of Numeracy and Literacy to identify, plan for, assess, monitor and report on each child’s Numeracy and Literacy learning.

NUMERACY INDICATORS	LITERACY INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I measure and compare my world</li> <li>○ I quantify my world.</li> <li>○ I explore and understand my place and space in the world.</li> <li>○ I read, analyse and organise the data in my world.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I use language to connect with my world.</li> <li>○ I understand the language of my world.</li> <li>○ I engage with texts and make meaning.</li> <li>○ I represent my world symbolically.</li> </ul>

- **Joint programs:**

- Full year transition program to Booleroo Centre District School, including visits with the Junior Primary class, participation in joint events and excursions and a series of transition days in Term 4, building from a short session to a full day.
- Transition program to Melrose Primary School beginning in Term 3 with short sessions on Fridays, building to full day Fridays during Term 4.
- Transition programs to other schools negotiated as needed.

## 4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile

Preschool Director:	Kerry Thomas
Preschool Early Childhood Worker:	Karen Blesing
Rural Care Workers – Booleroo:	Elfie Woolford, Liz Prosser, Stacy Martin, Porzia Slattery, Suzanne Govers
Rural Care Workers – Melrose:	Elin Griffiths, Vanessa Hook, Sandra Phillips

## 5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds:
  - Building with foyer/lockers, office, sleep room, two play areas, change room, kitchen, laundry, storeroom, adult toilet and children's toilets.
  - Large outdoor area including children's play area, several large shade trees, fruit trees, vegetable beds and chicken run with silky bantams.
- Capacity (per session): 23
- Centre Ownership: DECD
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: Yes
- Other: Shaded playground and swings, sandpit, digging patch, bike track.

## 6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics:

Occupations/services include farming/agricultural business, health (hospital, medical centre, aged care), hospitality (hotel), education (school, preschool) and small business (bakery, IGA, clothing/homewares, insurance firm, hairdresser, engineering).
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool:
  - Parent Information Sessions
  - Parent-run playgroup
  - Parent "chats" for preschool children in Terms 1 and 3
  - Parent representatives on Kindy, Rural Care and Playgroup Committee and Booleroo Centre District School Governing Council
  - Parent volunteers on excursions and with special events
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
  - Booleroo Centre District School
  - Melrose Primary School
  - Wirrabara Primary School
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:

Booleroo Centre offers an IGA supermarket, Medical Centre, Pharmacy, Hospital, Aged Care Facilities, R-12 District School, Preschool and Rural Care Service, Hairdresser, MGA Insurance, Hotel, Rural Supplies and Services, Rural Machinery Business, Fuel Station, Clothing and Homewares Boutique, IT Consultant, ATM, Post Office, Bakery and Engineering Services.

Rural cities of Port Pirie and Port Augusta are located just over an hours' drive from Booleroo Centre.

Jamestown and Laura (located under 45 minutes' drive from Booleroo Centre) also offer a wide range of shops and services.
- Other local facilities, e.g. medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational
  - Football, Netball, Tennis, Basketball, Swimming, Golf and Darts teams.
  - Uniting Church
  - Flinders Mobile Library (visiting fortnightly)
- Availability of staff housing
  - Small number of houses (subject to availability)

- Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality:
  - Adelaide is a 3 – 3 ½ hour drive from Booleroo Centre on good bitumen roads.
  - An airstrip is available for emergency transport to metropolitan hospitals.
  - Bus transport between Adelaide and Whyalla is available with stops at Port Pirie and Crystal Brook.
- Local Government body (name, phone number), availability of publications describing the local area (with source, cost), characteristics, level of involvement:
  - District Council of Mount Remarkable 08 8666 2014

## **7. Further Comments**

- Centre is part of the Flinders Partnership and larger Pirie Portfolio of DECD schools and preschools.
- When the CFS calls a “Catastrophic” fire alert day for the FLINDERS district, Booleroo Centre District Kindergarten and Rural Care will open but school buses will not run. However, Melrose Rural Care is rated a high risk bushfire site, so on “Catastrophic” fire alert days, Melrose Rural Care will be closed.