



# PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: April 17

**Centre number:** 6549

**Centre name:** Murray Bridge Preschool Kindergarten

## 1. General information

- Preschool Director Bev Harrison
- Postal address PO Box 229 Murray Bridge 5253
- Location address West Tce Murray Bridge 5253
- DECD Partnership Murraylands
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km) 2 kms from GPO
- Telephone number 0885322758
- Fax number 0885326720
- Preschool website address: [murraybkgn.sa.edu.au](http://murraybkgn.sa.edu.au)
- Preschool e-mail address [dl.6549.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.6549.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)
- Enrolment/Attendance  
We currently have the floor space capacity to enrol 60 children, the staffing allocation for 50 children and attendance patterns are stable.
- Co-located/stand-alone  
We are a stand alone Kindy co-located with the Murray Bridge Community Child Care Centre.
- Programs operating at the preschool
  - Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children

- Early Entry, Orientation, Transition
- Lunch/Full Day Program
- Preschool and Bi-Lingual support as needed

## 2. Key Centre Policies

All Centre Policies are available in the Policy Folder at the entrance table in the Kindergarten. Our philosophy, Behaviour Management Policy and Centre Information booklet are also available on the website.

Our 2017 Quality Improvement Plan outlines key areas for service improvement. Ongoing improvement priorities include

- The use of Storypark as an individual planning cycle tool and communication method to involve families in a partnership to strengthen children's learning.
- Upgrades, redesign, repurposing of learning spaces to facilitate changes in curriculum and pedagogy that places greater emphasis on Nature Play, Loose Parts and Inquiry based learning.
- Greater emphasis on family involvement, parent voice in decision making and planning, and valuing of families as partners in every aspect of service delivery.
- The development of Literacy, Numeracy and STEM Improvement Plans that result in quality teaching, learning and assessment of developmentally appropriate programs, individualised to children's strengths, needs and interests.

## 3. Curriculum

Frameworks used: Early Years Learning Framework

DECD Numeracy and Literacy Indicators

DECD Child Protection Curriculum

- Murraylands Partnership have developed an Emergent Literacy Project, with all sites involved in training about E-POP: Emergent writing, Phonological awareness, Oral Language and Print Concepts.
- DECD Results Plus "pedagogic shift in everything we do" – transforming tasks to get kids doing the hard thinking while having fun – is a key curriculum priority for continual improvement in our practice.

## 4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile Director 1.0, Teacher 1.4, ECW 0.5
- Access to special support staff as necessary
- Performance Management Program implemented annually, including Growth Coaching strategies, targeted Performance Development training, and regular opportunities for feedback.

## 5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

Murray Bridge Preschool is the oldest early years setting in Murray Bridge having been established in the mid 1950's. The current purpose built facility was built by the community in the 1970's. We are co-located with the Murray Bridge Children's Centre a community based childcare centre which was established in the 1980's. We are in close proximity to Murray Bridge North School, Murray Bridge Special School and St. Joseph's School. The majority of our children transition to Murray Bridge North School (around 74%) with the remainder feeding all the other local schools in the area.

Over recent years we have had a focus on improving the learning environment and physical resources of the Kindergarten. This has included; enclosing the verandah, upgrading the children's bathroom, replacing the kitchen, creating an entrance and parent reception area, creating appropriate storage areas and purchase of new resources. Outdoors we have installed new swings, shade and softfall, and we have been involved with Opal (Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle Program) with various projects including the development of the Nature Playground in the park next door. The continued development of our outdoor area is a significant improvement area for the future.

- Capacity (per session)      30 children per session

We have a centre capacity of 30 children per session. Currently children attend full day sessions from 9.00am to 3.00 pm. Groupings are Monday, Tuesday group; and a Thursday, Friday group. Each group has an alternate Wednesday full day. Other attendance combinations can be negotiated to meet family's specific needs. Children with additional needs are supported by DECD Special Services and receive additional Early Childhood Worker support time from Preschool Support Funding. DECD staffing is currently a full time Director, Teacher and half time Early Childhood Worker. This year the Governing Council has made a decision to fund the other half time of this position in acknowledgement of the diverse range of children's needs and our commitment to good relationships and quality service provision. This ensures excellent educator to child ratios.

- Centre Ownership  
The centre is community owned and runs a Department for Education and Child Development program.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities  
We strive to ensure access and participation for all people and make adaptations to the physical space and programs as necessary. Unfortunately, we do not have disabled toileting facilities at this stage.  
We serve a community which reflects and celebrates the diversity of the Murray Bridge population, and we welcome children from Indigenous and Refugee groups, children with Additional Needs and Children under the Guardianship of the Minister.
- Other

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

- General characteristics:

There are a wide range of employment opportunities, cultural groups and community activities in Murray Bridge.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool

Parent and Community Involvement is encouraged and welcomed. Parents are encouraged to become involved in our Governing Council, to contribute to service review and improvement planning and to partner with us in planning a quality curriculum for children. Family social events, working bees, special kindy events, excursions and information sessions are other ways to be involved. We value and encourage the inclusion of parent voice and involvement in all aspects of service provision.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool

A large proportion of our children transition to Murray Bridge North Primary School, with small groups of children attending the range of other schools in Murray Bridge and the wider community, including Jervois and Mypolonga.

- Other local care and educational facilities

We are co-located with the Murray Bridge Community Child Care Centre. There are a number of other child care facilities in Murray Bridge who drop children off to our Kindergarten Program. Other Preschool Programs include Tinyeri Children's Centre, Fraser Park CPC, Concordia Kindergarten and Tyndale ELC.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

Murray Bridge has a great range of shopping facilities.

- Other local facilities  
Information about a wide range of sporting, cultural and community opportunities are available in the Community guide and on the internet.
- Availability of staff housing  
Please check with DECD
- Accessibility  
A short 45 minute drive along the freeway from Adelaide.
- Local Government  
Rural City of Murray Bridge Council Area

## **7. Further Comments**