PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 6522

Centre name: Lameroo and District Kindergarten

1. General information

- Centre name: Lameroo and District Kindergarten
- Centre number: 6522
- Preschool Director: Mrs. Ali Steer
- Postal address: PO Box 144, Lameroo, 5302
- Location address: 192 Bews Terrace, Lameroo, 5302
- Telephone number: 8576 3379
- Fax number: 8576 3694
- e-mail address: kindy.director@lamerookgn.sa.edu.au
- DECS Region: Murray and Mallee.
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 2 kms
- Enrolment/Attendance: Approximately 12 full time children at present.
- Co-located/stand-alone: Stand alone. Situated next to the school.

- Programs operating
  - Pre Entry: 1 session per week (Thursdays AM).
  - Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children: Tuesdays and Thursdays all day.
    (15 Hours of Preschool Access has not been funded as yet.)
Occasional Care: 2 Sessions funded – Tuesdays AM and PM.

Extended Care: Children who use the school bus are monitored for an extra ½ hour at the end of each day.

Lunch/Full Day Program
  : Lunch Care is included on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Bilingual Support
  : N/A at present but has been provided in the past.

Preschool Support
  : Provided for those children who meet the requirements.

Transition Programme to prepare children for entry to school.

2. Key Centre Policies

  Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose
  : A Funded Occasional Care program operates each Tuesday, for two sessions. The Kindergarten has focussed on advertising and providing a quality program. Centre staff believe strongly in the importance of learning through play. The kindergarten children are immersed in Literacy play based activities each Tuesday afternoon and Numeracy activities each Thursday afternoon. Both the Kindergarten and School are working together to forge closer links. This involves meeting with the parents and combining the Reception and Kindergarten children together for a lesson to enhance relationships between the two. Staff are programming using the Early Years Learning Framework and are using the document as a basis for assessment.

3. Curriculum

  Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework
  Core Values
    : Improving access and participation for all. Provide a safe and caring environment. Ensure the needs of all children are met.
  Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
    : A computer program is funded by the kindergarten to promote basic computer skills with the children.

4. Centre Based Staff

  Staff Profile
    : 0.6 Director, 0.5 Early Childhood Worker, 0.4 Occasional Care Worker.
  Performance Management Program
    : Meetings are held on a termly basis.
Access to special support staff

When required Preschool Support staff are employed. Children with special needs are eligible for support by the DECS Special Educator and Speech Therapist. The Murray Mallee Community Health Service also provides a service. The Kindergarten uses a wide range of professional services such as the Autism Association and the Downs Syndrome Society. Resources are borrowed from the Special Education Resource Unit. (SERU). Early Entry may be granted dependent on the needs of the child. Early Intervention grants are used to employ a staff person to work with children who have identified needs.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  - The Kindergarten comprises of one building and a large outdoor play area. This outdoor area is fully fenced and consists of a bike track, a large sandpit, 1 swing area and a large playground and lawned area. Inside the Kindergarten there are 2 mat areas, an Art and Craft table, Library corner and home corners and tables and chairs.
- Capacity (per session)
  - 24
- Centre Ownership
  - South Australian Government.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities
  - The Kindergarten has wheelchair access and a large disabled toilet. There is also a disabled car park at the front of the Kindergarten.
- Other
  - The Governing Council is currently in the process of purchasing an Interactive Whiteboard, Photocopier and Printer. Also an upgrade of a specific outdoor play area is in progress.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments)
  - The majority of the children who attend the Kindergarten have a rural background with extended family within the district. Approximately one third of the children attending Kindergarten travel from home on the school bus in both the morning and afternoon. English is the main language spoken at home.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
  - Both the parents and the community have a strong involvement in the Kindergarten. There are 10 members on the Governing Council. Working
bees are well attended and the community regularly makes donations of
time, money and goods to the Kindergarten.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
  : Lameroo Regional Community School.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  : Lameroo is a farming community containing third generation farmers. As
    part of the Kindergarten program we visit a variety of Community Services
    such as the Hospital, Post Office, Dentist, Supermarket and Library.

- Other local facilities, eg medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational
  : Sport is a big focus in the community – netball, football, basketball and
    golf to name a few.

- Availability of staff housing
  : Housing is available.

- Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport
  and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality
  : Adelaide is approximately a 2 hour drive from Lameroo. A private car
    would be essential.

- Local Government body (name, phone number), availability of publications
  describing the local area (with source, cost), characteristics, level of
  involvement
  : Southern Mallee District Council 8577 8002.