



Parks Children's Centre 2017 Annual Report to the Community



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education
and Child Development

Parks Children's Centre Preschool Number: 5380

Partnership: Inner West

Name of Preschool Director:

Dianne Krieg

Name of Governing Council Chair:

Komal Jaitly / Mehmooda Batool

Date of Endorsement:

March 6th 2018

Context and Highlights

The Parks Children's Centre is a multicultural community located 12 kms from Adelaide CBD. Within the Parks Children's Centre we offered the following programs during 2017:

- Preschool - full-time program from 2017
- Inclusive Preschool Program (IPP)
- Occasional Care
- Playgroups, both universal and targeted as well as holiday playgroups with other services.
- Support for Families
- Parent Workshops- English class for women, Bringing up great kids, First aid for parents, Circle of security, How to make you brain grow, Sing and grow music with Flick and a Toolkit workshop.

Our staff comprises of:

Director, 3 Teachers and 5 Early Childhood Workers
Family Services Coordinator, Community Development Coordinator and Administration
Occupational Therapist and Speech Therapist

Within our preschool program 60% of children had English as an additional language, 15% of children required a high level of support for their learning and 20% of children required support for their speech or language over the year.

We had 17 children supported by our transition grant to access occasional care sessions. Over the year we offered 8 sessions of federally funded occasional care and 2 sessions of grant funded occasional care. All our occasional care sessions were full with some sessions integrated with preschool and other sessions on their own.

Our universal playgroups were very well attended. These playgroups were supported by the Occupational Therapist and the Speech Pathologist and have resulted in 14 children and families being referred to other agencies for further support with their learning and/or well being. We also offered small supported playgroups for vulnerable families with a speech focus and a play focus.

2017 was the first year that we offered full-time preschool. The transition to this program was quite seamless and we have seen an improvement with staff communication, continuity of learning and being available for parents.

During 2017 we were assessed against the National Quality Standards and received a rating of Exceeding in all areas. It was recommended we apply for an Excellence rating which will be done in 2018.

This rating acknowledges the work we do with children and families and the skills, passion and dedication of the staff.

I would like to thank the governing council for their support over the year and the wonderful staff who are making such a difference to the lives of children and families.

Report from the Governing Council

2017 has been a very positive year for the Parks Children's Centre. Due to the increased number of enrolments Parks Children's Centre has made two new groups of children (red and blue group), each consisting of 30 students. Occasional care has also been very busy and the demand for Occasional Care spaces far outweighed services available resulting in a longer waiting list. More and more families and parents are attending and utilising other programmes provided by the Centre which included Thursday and Friday Playgroup, English lessons for women, Parenting Courses, Art and First Aid Classes.

The Inner West Partnership was successful in winning a grant to grow the PPGR project with Pennington, Challa Garden, Kilkenny, Allenby Garden, Seaton, and Renown Park last year. The Parks Children's centre staff supported this project to grow and flourish. Charles Sturt Council was also involved with this leg of the project. There were two successful PPGR events which were held on Thursday 6th of April 2016 and Thursday 26th of October 2016. Approximately 450 people attended these events.

As the number of students increased, the required number of staff increased too. Due to the increase of families some staff also increased their hours. Staff contributions, professionalism, diligence and care are always evident, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated team steering our children through this important time of their lives. We have the considerable benefit of many of the Preschool's staff being with us for a long period, giving us an enviable stability of knowledge and experience. Staff are always friendly, and more than ready to help. Their approach and skills are always at the highest of quality.

As Chairperson of The Parks Children's Centre Preschool Governing Council 2017, I would like to thank Preschool's Director, Dianne and all staff for providing a nurturing, safe and exciting learning environment for our children this year. The Governing Council has had a productive year and thank you to the committed group of members who, together with director Dianne's leadership has provided invaluable support and vision to Preschool.

Quality Improvement Planning

Our quality improvement plan gave us clear goals for improvement. We had 8 goals for 2017 in which progress was made in each. I will detail progress in several of the areas in this report.

Quality Area 6

There was significant progress made in 4 elements of quality area 6, I will detail 2 areas below.

1 - Continuity of learning for each child and better relationships with staff across sites.

During 2017 staff wanted to develop stronger relationships with early years teachers at our feeder schools. We know that better communication between sites and an understanding of the different learning curriculums make for easier transitions for children with less interruption to their learning. To help achieve this we had shared numeracy training with staff over 6 sessions, participated in an inquiry project about Critical and Creative Thinking, learnt about Conductive Education with the staff from Kidman Special unit, attended a day workshop on Learning Design, Assessment and Moderation, held a workshop on Literacy and Numeracy Indicators and supported transitions to or from St Patricks School Woodville Gardens School, Pennington School, White Friars School, St Margaret Marys School, Challa Gardens School and The Grove Special School.

These learning opportunities have resulted in better understanding of how to deliver curriculum, have established networks between sites over the Early Years (preschool - year 1), have developed a shared language between sites, have shared and built knowledge and skills of educators and has influenced practice within the partnership. It has also provided opportunities for reflection of practice and pedagogy, all of which improves teaching and learning outcomes for children.

Recommendations for 2018.

- continue with Critical and Creative Thinking Inquiry Professional Learning Communities and "sprints." Invite staff from St Patrick's (given they are our largest feeder school)
- participate in the Learning Design Assessment and Moderation workshops (4)

2 - All children in the Inner West will have opportunities to engage with a Literacy program based on Paint the Parks and Gardens ReAd.

During 2017 the Inner West Partnership was successful in winning a well-being and engagement grant so we could expand the Paint the Parks and Gardens Project. We teamed up with Charles Sturt Council, Uniting SA, Child Care Centres and all the DECD early years sites in the Inner West to deliver their own program called Paint the Westside ReAd. This involved the establishment of a steering committee and facilitator who worked closely with The Parks and Gardens group to get this project off the ground. The new egg was delivered to this community on August 11th and made its way to every Early Years site over the following months, growing all the time as the children read, sang, talked and danced to it. There were 3 different sized eggs that went to every site with the 4th egg hatching on November 8th to a large crowd of 500 at the Woodville Civic Centre who welcomed Lizzie the Literacy Lizard.

Paint the Parks and Gardens held their annual reading day on October 26th and launched their next book. These projects remind all the community of the importance of developing early literacy skills with children from birth. With community events, reading messages, literacy activities, themed playgroups, school holiday reading activities, book swap boxes, the providing of reading resources and the use of the mascots, Lizzie and Parker (Paint the Parks and Garden's Mascot), we keep the messages alive throughout the year. This project will have long term benefits and this change will be reflected in the AECD results for the suburbs involved. We expect to see positive change over 10 years.

Enrolment

Year	Enrolment by Term			
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2015	37	39	39	38
2016	39	41	42	41
2017	50	60	57	

NOTE: The data is based on person counts in the two week reference period each term. Excludes pre-entry.
Source: Preschool Data Collection, Data Management and Information Systems.

Enrolment Comment

2017 was the first year that the Parks Children's Centre offered full-time preschool with 2 groups over the week. During term 2 we had 60 preschool enrollments which reflects the growth in the area as well as the parents choosing to keep their child at the Centre after attending playgroups or occasional care. Staff work hard at building relationships with families and parents are understanding the importance of this as well as continuity of learning for their child.

Attendance

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2015 Centre	96.1%	94.5%	92.8%	95.7%
2016 Centre	86.3%	71.0%	85.6%	94.8%
2017 Centre	90.6%	91.2%	84.9%	
2015 State	92.4%	90.2%	87.8%	88.5%
2016 State	91.1%	89.6%	87.9%	87.9%
2017 State	90.6%	88.8%	86.7%	

Based on attendances recorded in the two week reference period each term. Data for eligible enrolments as described in the DECD Enrolment policy.

Attendance rates may differ to previous reporting with the transfer from calculations based on deemed attendance to actual attendance using booked hours divided by attended hours.

Attendance Comment

Staff at the Parks Children's Centre communicate with families the importance of attending preschool sessions. Our attendance shows we are close to the state average. Staff are also aware of the importance of cultural identity and supporting the family to attend cultural days of celebrations and to visit family overseas.

Destination Schools

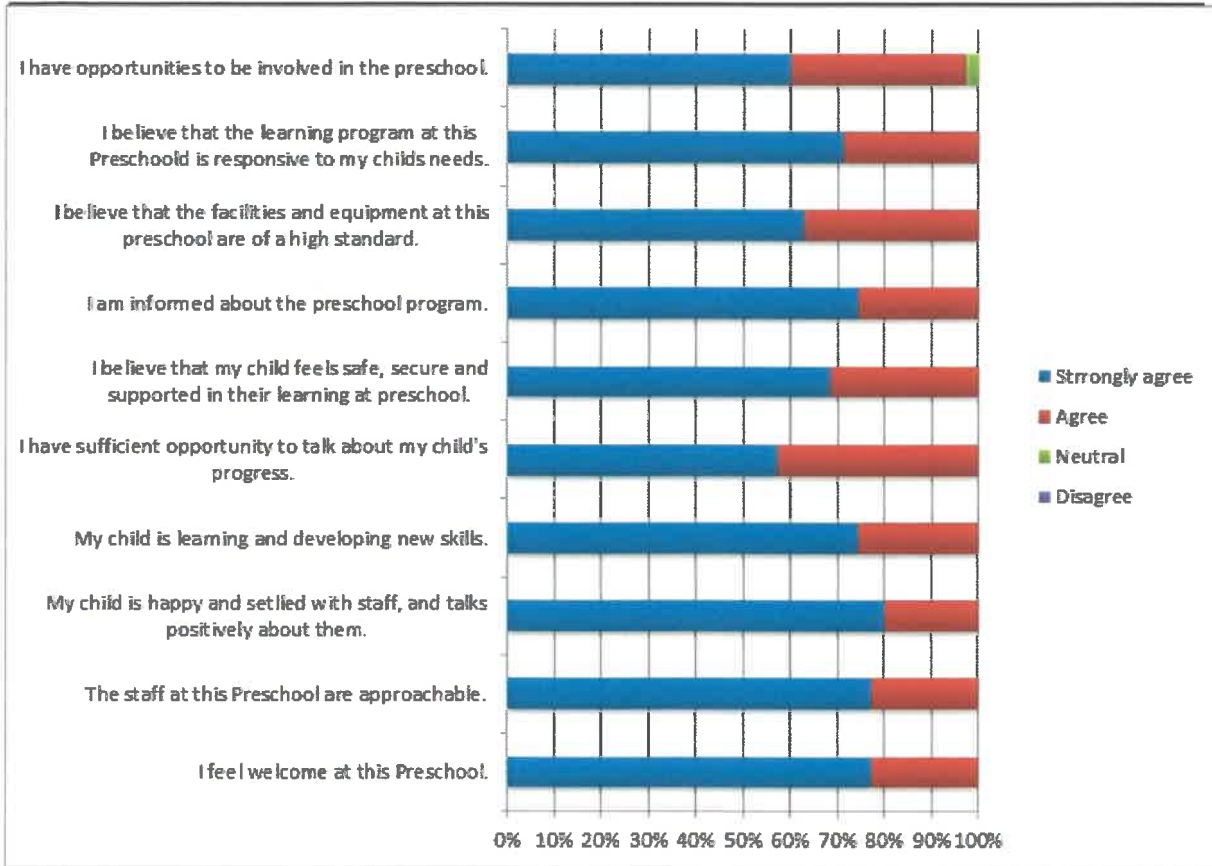
Feeder Schools (Site number - Name)	2015	2016	2017
0135 - Flinders Park Primary School	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%
0207 - Kilkenny Primary School	5.7%	0.0%	0.0%
0305 - Nailsworth Primary School	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%
0337 - Pennington School R-7	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%
0570 - Prospect North Primary School	2.9%	5.9%	2.1%
0714 - Challa Gardens Primary School	2.9%	0.0%	6.3%
0996 - Kidman Park Primary School	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%
1777 - The Pines School	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%
1904 - Woodville Gardens School B-7	22.9%	11.8%	14.6%
8202 - Trinity College Gawler River School	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%
8311 - St Aloysius College	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%
8362 - St Mary's College	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%
8500 - Australian Islamic College Adelaide	0.0%	2.9%	4.2%
9010 - Immaculate Heart of Mary School	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%
9018 - St Margaret Mary's School	11.4%	5.9%	4.2%
9036 - St Brigid's School	2.9%	0.0%	4.2%
9042 - St Patrick's School	31.4%	52.9%	52.1%
9043 - Pinnacle College	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%
9089 - Whitefriars School	2.9%	11.8%	4.2%
9116 - St Paul Lutheran School	2.9%	0.0%	2.1%
9402 - Sunrise Christian School	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

NOTE: The data is based on person counts in the two week reference period each term. Excludes pre-entry.
Source: Preschool Data Collection, Data Management and Information Systems.

Destination Schools Comment

The data shows that over 50% of children go to the local Catholic School, St Patricks. Other children are enrolled at a variety of DECD and private schools within the community. We had 4 children enroll at The Grove Special School.

Client Opinion Summary



DECD Relevant History Screening

All staff, tertiary students, volunteers and third party providers are screened in line with DECD policies.

Financial Statement

	Funding Source	Amount
1	Grants: State	
2	Grants: Commonwealth	
3	Parent Contributions	
4	Other	

2017 Preschool Annual Report: Improved Outcomes Funding

Improved Outcomes Category (where applicable to the site)	Briefly describe how the 2017 funding was used to improve the relevant DECD Standard of Educational Achievement outcomes (where applicable):*	Outcomes achieved or progress towards these outcomes:
Improved outcomes for numeracy and literacy	All educators attended 18 hours of numeracy professional development by PMA. This was done together with early years educators from the partnership. Educators were supported to develop literacy and numeracy tracking tools.	Shared language. Working towards moderation Better tracking of children with numeracy and literacy
Improved ECD and Parenting Outcomes (Children's Centres only)	Parenting workshops - 24 parents attended over the year Toolkit workshop (children with disabilities) - 8 attended How to grow your brain workshop - 6 attended First Aid- 14 attended Sing and grow music therapy - 10 attended.	Improved parenting skills Improved relationships parent-child
Improved outcomes for children with disabilities	We supported 6 children in the inclusive preschool program and 2 other children with significant needs. 17 children were referred from playgroups into occasional care. 14 children were referred for further assessment or support.	Earlier referral and intervention Working collaboratively with other agencies for best outcomes for children and families.
Improved outcomes for children with additional language or dialect	A Vietnamese bilingual support worker was employed for 60 hours. Translators were employed for individual planning meetings for children Resources were translated into Vietnamese and Chinese.	Better communication with parents

* The DECD Standard of Educational Achievement is defined as children and young people progressing and achieving at or above their appropriate year level.