Centre number: 6659
Centre name: Port Pirie Community Kindergarten

1. General information

Preschool Director Bridie Hickey

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DECD District
Pirie Partnership

Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
Approx. 230km from Adelaide on coast of upper Spencer Gulf, near Southern Flinders Ranges and mid-north area.

Enrolment/Attendance
35
Co-located/stand-alone
Stand Alone

Programs operating

Pre Entry
• 3 sessions in Term 4 prior to eligible attendance at preschool.
• Longer Transition Days offered during this term on line with local schools.

Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
Children attend 5 full days of a fortnight.
• Tuesday to Wednesday – Full days 8:45 am – 2.45pm one week and
• Tuesday to Thursday alternate week – Full days 8.45am to 2.45pm
Bilingual Support: 3 hours per week
Preschool Support: Support is provided for children with special needs through Early Intervention or preschool support program

2. **Key Centre Policies**

Centre Priorities

- Offering a play-based curriculum aligned with Belonging, Being and Becoming – the National Curriculum
- To increase children’s wellbeing with a focus on social skills and healthy lifestyle
- To support development of language use as a basis for Literacy and Numeracy skills.
- To promote care of our environment through extending sustainable environmental practices.

Operational Principles: see attached philosophy

3. **Curriculum**

Our curriculum is based on the “Early Years Learning Framework for Australia”. Fundamental to the Framework is a view of children’s lives as characterised by ‘Belonging, Being and Becoming’.

The Learning Outcomes for children from birth to 5 years within this Framework are:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of well being
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators

Child Protection Curriculum is embedded in our approaches.

4. **Centre Based Staff**

The site is operates 0.6 (3 days a week)

Staff Profile

- 1 director (0.6)
- 1 teacher permanent (0.6)
- ECW is generally offered

Performance Management Program

- Negotiated with staff and director by end of first term & reviewed on a regular basis, with written feedback annually.
Setting personal teaching goals and those related to Quality Improvement Plan (with commitment to training and development)

All teachers are involved in Professional Learning Culture groups with innovative practices being implemented.

Access to special support staff

Early screening of children allows site to access support if required.

Other

History

- Opened in 1962.
- The Broken Hill Associated Smelter donated the land (Parkland originally). Celebrated 50 years in 2012.

Centre Facilities

Buildings and grounds

- One main building with office, staff room, store room, kitchen, children’s toilet/change area, staff toilet and main classroom.
- Large outdoor area with shed, large shaded ‘playsafe’ area, large trees, veggie garden, water feature, amphitheatre areas.

Capacity (per session)

- 45 children

Centre Ownership

- DECD site erected on donated land.

Access for children and staff with disabilities

- Wheel chair access in main entrance; on flat site.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

General characteristics

- Port Pirie Community Kindergarten is located in the city of Port Pirie which is a regional centre with a range of employment opportunities from service provision to the smelters. There is a great diversity in cultural backgrounds, socio economic backgrounds and family structures. Parent and community involvement in the preschool is very supportive.
- The centre’s Governing Council meets twice a term to discuss issues such as centre priorities, fundraising, maintenance and finance.
- The centre promotes parent and community involvement in the following ways:
  Community visitors to the kindy
  Promoting and participating in community events
Liaising with associated family and early childhood services
Organising family events eg. Family Nights
Playgroup.
Communicating with text messaging service (MGMwireless)

Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
- Our main feeder schools are Risdon Park Primary School and St Marks College (Catholic Ed). We also have some children attend each of the other local schools: Airdale Primary School, Pirie West Primary School, Solomontown Primary School and the Mid North Christian College.

Other local care and educational facilities, eg child care, schools, OSHC
- Port Pirie Early Learning Program.
- Port Pirie Family Day Care.
- Childcare Centres: Port Pirie Community Children's Centre; Bubble and Squeak.
- Preschools: Ellendale Kindergarten, Risdon Park South Kindergarten, Solomontown Kindergarten.
- Schools: Airdale Primary School (OSHC Program), Port Pirie West Primary School, Risdon Park Primary School, Solomontown Primary School, Port Pirie Special School, John Pirie Secondary School, St Marks College (Catholic R-12) and Mid-North Christian College.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
- Port Pirie has a wide range of shopping facilities including speciality stores, clothing, hardware, furniture, electrical, bakeries, chemists, garden nurseries, supermarkets (Coles, Foodland, Woolworths) and variety stores (Prests, K-mart, Target, Cheap as Chips).
- The Central Business District is situated on and around Ellen Street (main shopping area). Port Pirie Plaza (Kmart, speciality stores, Coles) is situated away from CBD on Grey Terrace.

Other local facilities, eg medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational
- Hospital, medical clinics, police station, council, public library, church services, outdoor/indoor pool, gymnasium, local shopping centres, parks, playgrounds and tourism attractions (Northern Festival Centre, Port Pirie Museum, Port Pirie Art & Tourism Centre, Southern Flinders Ranges).
- Port Pirie has a wide range of sporting clubs and facilities.

Availability of staff housing
- Yes.
Accessibility to Adelaide

- Premier Stateliner provides passenger and parcel delivery services daily to and from Adelaide.
- The highway to Adelaide is in good condition with the trip taking approximately 2 hours by car.

Air Service

- Yes.

Local Government

Port Pirie Regional Council  Phone: 86321222  Fax: 86325801
E-mail: council@ppadc.sa.gov.au
Local area publications are also available at no cost from the Port Pirie Art and Tourism Centre.

7. Further Comments

- CaFHS health screenings are organised for children.
- We accept students from:
  Uni SA, Pirie TAFE, local high schools, volunteers with police clearance

Philosophy Statement

Core belief - Children learn about people, nature, the world and themselves when their early childhood is nurtured through play. Through play, children’s identity, well being, connectedness to the world and others, communication skills and learning, are fostered.

Statement of Principles: The following are the main principles and practices that best support our core belief and the developmental needs of our children.

The importance of play is promoted as the foundation of child-centred programs and the structure of daily routines and activities.

The children’s interests persuade the program content.

By offering an environment that is nurturing and supportive, children are encouraged to make positive choices and learn through repetition and without fear of failure.
Indoor and outdoor environments will provide opportunities to provoke interest, invite open-ended interactions, connect with nature and challenge children.

Children’s independence, interdependence and self worth are highly valued and self help skills are encouraged in accordance with their ongoing personal development.

Children are valued as individuals and our kindergarten environment reflects our appreciation of their diversity, family values and cultural backgrounds. We value respect and honesty by promoting an environment that is inclusive, accepting and free of culture and gender bias.

We endeavour to empower children through their taking responsibility for their feelings, behaviour, environment, materials and personal belongings.

We support parents/carers in their role as primary caregivers and share information about their child's development, needs, strengths and abilities.

Our staff strives to maintain a high quality programme and contributes openly towards continuing improvement.

We appreciate the many levels of experience, backgrounds and skills that staff, parents/carers and children bring and endeavour to utilize these in a fashion that values all contributions.

We maintain the privacy and delicate nature of information about children, parents/carers and staff members.