Centre number: 3649

Centre name: Mary Bywaters Kindergarten

1. General information

- Centre name: Mary Bywaters Memorial Kindergarten
- Centre number: 3649
- Preschool Director: Heather Ward
- Postal address: 54 Corn St. Old Reynella 5161
- Location address: 54 Corn St. Old Reynella 5161
- Courier number: Southern Adelaide
- Telephone number: 8381 2904
- Fax number: 8322 8749
- DECS District: Southern Adelaide
- Road distance from GPO (km): 22 kms
- Staffing Numbers: 4 FTE
• Programs operating at the centre

❖ Preschool Sessions

GROUP A
Monday - Thursday Morning Sessions: 8.45 – 11.30

GROUP B
Monday – Thursday Afternoon Sessions: 12.15 – 3.00

Our centre works closely with 3 local child care centres.
Snow White Child Care and Edge Kids Life transport children to and from our centre for Morning Sessions.
Reynella Community Child Care transport children to and from our centre for Afternoon Sessions.

❖ Pre Entry

Friday AM : 8.45 – 10.30am
One session per week on Friday mornings for children who turn 4 during that term. This is an unfunded program and is provided when numbers of 4 years old permit. When preschool enrolments are high, sessional kindergarten may be offered on Friday mornings.
Pre-entry sessions enable children to become familiar with our centre and staff and to become more independent and competent. Parents or Caregivers are encouraged to stay if they wish. This session is an opportunity for staff to work closely with children and families to support children in their future learning and development.

❖ Playgroup

Friday AM 10.45 am – 12.30pm.
A quality playgroup coordinated by centre parents, well resourced with great activities, a focus on eating healthy food, and group time songs with children and parents at the conclusion of each session.

❖ Occasional Care

Occasional care or Emergency Care is provided for 4 years olds only, who are already attending kindergarten. It may be used by parents who are unavoidably detained and on an occasional basis only. The Governing Council determines the cost of this service.
• **Government Status**. Mary Bywaters Memorial Kindergarten is a Department of Education and Children’s Services Centre. The centre prospers through close parent, community and staff working relationships. Centre management decisions are made in conjunction with our Governing Council.

• **Enrolment/Attendance trends**
  Enrolments vary from 70 to 80 children each term. Average attendance will be around 65-70 per day.

• **Year of opening**
  The original Kindergarten opened in 1947 in the Methodist Sunday school Hall in Peach St. Reynella. The current building was opened in 1973.

• **Public transport access**
  Public buses run down Old South Rd. regularly.

2. **Children**

• **General characteristics**
  Currently groups consist of mainly children with Australian backgrounds, with a number of children who are Australian born, but with another cultural background. We have a small number of families from other cultures. There are currently low numbers of children with special needs and these are mainly children with speech or language needs.

**Special Needs support**
  DECS provides an Early Assistance Intervention Grant which is used to employ an extra person to provide staff support for children who are at risk of learning difficulties. Along with this grant, our Centre contributes funds to increase the time for Early Childhood Workers (ECW) or Preschool Support Workers to spend with these children for their specific learning programs. Children who have more significant learning difficulties or disabilities are referred to the District Office and specialist support is provided to enable staff to achieve high outcomes for these children.

• **Child Behaviour Management**
  The goals of our Behaviour Management policy state that:
  Adults & peers will treat all children with respect. Every child will be free from harassment & bullying. Children will learn to be aware of their own behaviour. Children will learn to be conscious of how their behaviour affects others & themselves. Children will learn to take responsibility for their own behaviour.
3. **Key Centre Policies**

- **Quality Assurance Processes**
  : Quality Assurance processes are implemented in line with DECS’ QA policy. Assessment and reporting strategies are in place. All staff are involved in observation and recording.

- **Site Improvement Plans**
  : Priorities for 2010 include developing Children’s literacy, numeracy and well being. A Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (HEPA) project within the centre has been a focus of our learning during 2010. The new National Curriculum framework Belonging, Being and Becoming is a focus for staff development and for information for families within this centre.

4. **Curriculum**

- **Framework used**
  : Belonging Being and Becoming – introduced in 2010 as the new National Curriculum.

- **EC Pedagogy**
  : Main features of our pedagogy include small group activities, play based learning, direct instruction and developing strategies for an improved focus on constructivism.

- **Assessment procedures and reporting**
  : A number of strategies are used to enable staff to assess children’s skills and subsequently report on these. All staff are involved in small group activities, targeting specific skills and observing and recording as necessary. Individual children are discussed at staff meetings and plans developed for the future. Questionnaires are given to parents to gain more insight from home. Informal and formal interviews take place with teaching staff to report to parents and find out how things are going at home. A current Assessment & Reporting policy is in place.

- **Joint programmes/special curriculum projects**
  : Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (HEPA)

5. **Co-Curricular Activities**

- **General**
  : The Governing Council and staff organise social activities for families at various times.
6. Staff

Staff Profile (Status, classification/award, employment details)

Heather Ward – Director (1.0 F.T.E. 2006 - 2013
Wendy Conrad – Teacher (1.0 F.T.E.; 2008 - 2017)
Colleen Baker – Early Childhood Worker (ECW) (1.0 F.T.E; permanent)
Samantha Wordsworth – Early Childhood Worker (ECW) (0.5 contract)

Performance Management program

:All staff participate in a performance management process twice per year. Specific goals are developed and agreed upon which relate to DECS priorities and Centre priorities. The second meeting during the year is a review to check on progress.

- Access to special support staff

:Departmental policy applies for children with learning difficulties or disabilities, with regard to access to support staff. Centre staff request support when children’s needs are sufficient to warrant it.

7. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

:The Kindergarten is 53 years old, but the current building has been occupied for 37 years. The building is in good condition with large grounds. Facilities are well maintained, with a number of priorities currently being determined for the outdoor area. The Site Improvement Plan will detail some major improvements over the next 5 years, such as a new pergola, rainwater tank, cupboards and an interactive whiteboard.

- Capacity

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- Centre Ownership

:The Centre is owned by DECS.

- Access for children and staff with disabilities

:There are no steps through the gate or into the building, so access is very easy. There are steps and a ramp to the upper part of the outdoor area, with proportions of the outdoor area also easily accessible.

8. Centre Operations

- Constitution

:The Centre Constitution was reviewed and renewed in 2003, to reflect the uniqueness of the centre’s policies and programs.
• Decision-making structures (eg. Management structure, Organisational chart, sub committees)
  :Decision making procedures currently include regular discussions between staff and also between the Governing Council. For major decisions, the general community are encouraged to attend meetings, information is disseminated via newsletters and feedback sought, before any decisions are made.

• Regular Publications
  :Newsletters are available for parents and community groups when necessary.

• Other communication processes
  :Notice boards, email, website.

• Centre financial position
  :The Centre is well equipped and has sufficient funds to cover costs. The Governing Council manage a few fund raising activities each year.

9. Local Community

• General characteristics: (eg. work, languages, culture)
  :A high percentage of families in the community have one or two parents working either full or part time. Main language is English, but there are a few families for whom English is a second language.

• Feeder schools/preschools/care/OSHC
  :The Centre has a large number of feeder schools, with the main ones being Reynella, Braeview, Woodend and Woodcroft Primary Schools. Children also feed into private schools including Sunrise Christian Schools, Emmaus Catholic School, Southern Vales Christian College, Antonios Catholic School and Woodcroft College,

• Parent and community involvement
  Parents are involved at different levels within the Centre. Parents volunteer to provide curriculum support eg, working with children on the computer/spending time playing with children, excursion support, fundraising and Governing Council membership.

• Local Government body
  :Onkaparinga Council

10. Further Comments

• Partnership/co-operation/arrangements with other groups
  :The local Country Women’s Association use the Centre twice a month for evening meetings. Children visit the local nursing home each term.