PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 3649

Centre name: Mary Bywaters Kindergarten

1. General information

- Centre name
  : Mary Bywaters Memorial Kindergarten
- Centre number
  : 3649
- Preschool Director
  : Janet Buxton
- 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 will operate as 2 full days and half a day every other Friday

• GROUP 1 – ‘Gumnuts’
  Monday and Tuesday 8.30am – 3.00pm plus alternate Fridays for 5 hours
  8.30am - 1.30pm starting in week one of term.

GROUP 2 – ‘Desert Peas’
Wednesday and Thursday 8.30am – 3.00pm plus alternate Fridays for 5 hours
8.30am-1.30pm starting in week 2 of term.

All sessions will include a ‘lunch care program’ were each day the child will
bring their own healthy lunch from home. This will be part of our educational
program promoting nutritional information and healthy eating.

Our centre works closely with 2 local child care centres.
Snow White Child Care and Edge Kids Life and we offer 2 separate
groups in our efforts to keep ‘friendship groups’ together.

❖ Pre Entry
As from the beginning of 2012 and due to a new Federal Government
initiative, Pre-entry will exit at Mary Bywaters Kindergarten when vacancies
are available.

❖ Playgroup
  Although not based at Mary Bywaters Kindergarten, local community
  playgroups will operate in and around the local Reynella Community.

• 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
  Maximum enrolments up to 45 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:** ‘The Early Years Learning Framework of Australia’
  
  Belonging Being and Becoming – introduced in 2010 as our National Framework.
• **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)
- Janet Buxton – Director (1.0 F.T.E. 2012 - 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
  - 45

- 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, Antonio 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.