



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/16

Centre number: 6625

Centre name: Moonta Kindergarten

1. General information

- **Preschool Director** – Anna Daly
- **Postal address**- Blanch Terrace Moonta SA 5558
- **Location address** - Blanche Terrace Moonta
- **DECD Region**- Northern Yorke
- **Geographical location** – ie road distance from GPO (km)- 170km
- **Telephone number** – 08 88252403
- **Fax number** – 08 88251894
- **Preschool website address**- www.moontakgn.sa.edu.au/
- **Preschool e-mail address** – dl.6625.moontakindergarten@schools.sa.edu.au

We are considered an Extreme Bushfire Risk centre and therefore have a Bushfire Plan. This kindergarten will close on Catastrophic Fire Danger days.

We have been assessed through the National Quality Framework and have determined to be 'Exceeding National Quality Standard'. The National Quality Framework (NQF) is an integrated national approach to the regulation and quality assessment processes for early childhood services.

Table 1: Enrolments by Term

Enrolment by Term				
Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2013	51	61	47	36
2014	36	36	41	43
2015	48	48	52	50
2016	51	50	49	52

- **Co-located/stand-alone**
Stand alone but adjacent to the school.
- **Programs operating at the preschool**
 - ❖ **Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children**
Children attend for 2 full days 8.30 to 2.45pm and every second Friday 8.30am to 1.30pm.
 - ❖ **Lunch/Full Day Program**
Children bring with them to kindy their lunch. We have a dedicated lunch time for all children attending.
 - ❖ **Preschool Support**
Once referred to our DECD Disability Coordinator, children may be eligible for some pre school support hours with a support worker while at the centre. If numbers permit there may be capacity for children with ESL to attend the term prior the commencement of their eligible kindergarten year.
 - ❖ **Occasional Care**
An occasional Care program operates each Friday for children over 2. Two carers run the program enabling up to 18 children to attend. (12.30 to 3.30) More information can be accessed by calling the kindergarten.

2. Key Centre Policies

- **Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose**
At Moonta Kindergarten we know that children learn through play, and we agree that all children have the right to be active participants in their own lives.
We see the children as competent and capable learners and we look to progress the children further to be powerful learners. We aim to do this by teaching the children to be deep thinkers and risk takers.

We believe our role is to encourage and model teamwork with all stakeholders at the kindergarten. Stakeholders being the children, staff, parents and community of Moonta. Together, our role is to support and extend children's learning and development in a way that they are able to succeed. We look at the child in a holistic way which encourages educators to recognise the connections between children, families and communities and the importance of shared relationships and partnerships for learning.

"As educators we look at the children and their learning in the context of 'here and now'."

We believe that here and now is the most important time for our children and their learning, as it paves the way for the future."

Families, community and educators acknowledge that childhood is a time for play, when the life of a young person should be easygoing. Each kindy day should bring numerous opportunities to imagine and explore so many yet to be discovered chances to learn. In such a busy world we are committed to provide the children at Moonta kindy with experiences that will take them on to be future citizens who are able to contribute and make a positive difference to our community.

This year our improvement priorities are:

- Improvement Priority 1: Critical reflection- Observing and documenting children's learning in a meaningful way. Extending thinking and learning. Ensuring all children are involved, and active in the learning environment. Critical reflection will be part of an ongoing cycle of review, where

- Educators are able to examine all aspects of learning experiences from different perspectives and continually seek ways to build upon our professional knowledge.

We aim to provide an environment where the children are being challenged and extended with their thinking. Educators are gaining increased child's voice in observations and less of our own judgement.

- Improvement Priority 2: Environments for learning
Team planning to create an environment that is pleasant to be in, that can be explored and experienced with all the senses and inspires further advancements in learning.

An opportunity for the children in our community to develop risk taking skills and improve their confidence, health and well-being. Creation through community and family consultation of an environment that will instil a sense of wonder, generate curiosity and spark imagination with our children.

3. Curriculum

- **Framework used:** Early Years Learning Framework.

Focus on the National Curriculum, which for children from birth – 5 years is based around the 'Early Years' Learning Framework' (EYLF). EYLF focuses on both a play based curriculum and an Intentional teaching approach, which refers to teachers using strategies such as modelling, open questioning, engaging in shared thinking and problem solving to extend children's thinking and learning within play based learning experiences.

We implement the 'Keeping Safe' Child Protection curriculum.

This curriculum aims to increase pre school children's learning about feeling safe and the right to be safe through group time sessions which are age appropriate, non invasive and involve learning in a safe fun environment.

- **Joint programmes/special curriculum projects**

Moonta Kindergarten runs Occasional Care on a Friday afternoon from 12.30 to 3.30. Information relating to this service can be accessed through our parent information book on the Occasional care tab on our website or by calling the centre during office hours.

This year we embark on a very exciting outdoor upgrade. 2017 will be one of planning and consultation with children, families and community. 2018 will be the commencement of works in the yard. This will be a fantastic opportunity for educators to incorporate many learning experiences for and with the children, planners and construction firm. Much of the learning will revolve around STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.) Children will be challenged with their thinking, encouraged to give feedback and ideas as well as gaining respectful reciprocal relationships with the employees of the design and construction companies. We are establishing a comprehensive transition program with same first day in mind. Preparation of all children of various ages starting school in Term 1.

Library visits to the school are conducted each week.

The children are involved in numerous literacy and numeracy activities each week. The curriculum content is based on the EYLF and the Literacy and Numeracy Indicators.

- **Specific curriculum approaches**

A strong emphasis on play based learning, based on the individual interests and needs of children, with explicit teaching revolving around planned curriculum experiences.

Close links have been established with the junior primary section of Moonta Area School ensuring seamless transition to school.

4. Centre Based Staff

Staff numbers fluctuate depending on numbers and needs of children attending.

We are permanently staffed as a .6 Director, .6 Teacher and .6 ECW.

For 2017 we have been staffed as a full time centre with a fulltime Director, Fulltime Teacher and half time ECW. We also employ staff to engage in support programs as required.

- **Performance Management Program**

Performance Management of the Preschool staff is managed by the Director. Formal meetings are arranged each twice yearly with a written proforma to be discussed.

Performance Management of the Director is managed by the District Director.

- **Access to special support staff.**

Access to support staff is prepared through the Regional Office in conjunction with centre staff.

5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**

The buildings and grounds are adjacent to the Moonta Area School backing onto a local council plantation.

The centre has been regularly maintained and upgraded in previous years. Minor upgrades are frequently happening.

The centre has a large main playroom with kitchen area separated via bench top divider.

There is an office space, which is also used for small group work and as a quiet area for special needs/speech programs.

There are two bathroom areas in the centre. One is for the children and the other for staff/adults; this also contains a small storage area. The children's bathroom also houses a change table.

The outdoor play area is spacious with lawned areas, gardens, sandpit, amphitheatre, a ship, play equipment and a large pergola. The outdoor area is easy to supervise from most sections of the centre. In 2015 a mud kitchen and decking area were installed.

We have been successful in winning an outdoor upgrade grant, which will commence in the first half of 2018.

The grounds contain a shed for storage and a smaller shed that has been improved on the outside to house a play platform for various dramatic play scenarios.

- **Capacity (per session)**

30

- **Centre Ownership**

Copper Coast Council with DECD as leasee.

- **Access for children and staff with disabilities**

Facilities include lower hand basins in the bathroom, a path around the yard for access to all areas. All activities can be modified for access to all.

6. Local Community

- **General characteristics:**

Moonta is identified as one of the towns which make up the “Copper Triangle” of Yorke Peninsula, closely linked with Kadina and Wallaroo communities.

Moonta Township was developed as a major mining settlement with a strong Cornish heritage

The town is a major service town supporting the local agricultural community and strong tourism industry linked to the seaside area of Moonta Bay and Port Hughes..

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool.**

We have a good parent involvement at the Preschool, with parents joining Governing Council and helping with daily involvement of centre.

The Preschool has established strong links with community groups and local businesses that actively support fundraising donate goods and participate in experiences to support the learning program for the children.

We visit the aged care facility throughout the year as well as being involved with local events such as the Kerneweck Lowender and Christmas Pageant. Local services are also invited into the centre to assist with the Child protection curriculum. These services include police, ambulance, fire, and vet.

Events are held throughout the year for families to join in with such as Fathers Night, Mother’s Day morning tea, Obstaclethon, and Christmas break up.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:**

- Moonta Area School.**

- A smaller percentage also attends Harvest Christian School in Kadina and St Mary Mckillop Catholic School in Wallaroo.

- **Other local care and educational facilities.**

Kadina has 2 Childcare Centres. There are also Family Day Care providers in Moonta. Moonta Area School provides limited places for 4 year olds in their Out of School Hours Care program.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

- Moonta has a Foodland, post office, newsagency, a range of hardware home improvement stores, a garden centre, restaurants and a variety of smaller stores. There is also a Woolworths and Target Country situated in Kadina.

- **Other local facilities**

Moonta is serviced by a Private Community Hospital, consulting General Practitioners, Child Youth and Health Services and has links with a range of support agencies and Departments via a consulting visiting program.

There are a number of Sporting Clubs and Community Groups including tennis, football, netball, hockey, basketball, golf, lawn bowls etc. Clubs include Rotary and Apex.

- **Availability of staff housing.**

Limited access to teacher housing.

Accessibility

: A daily bus to Adelaide.

: Nearest airport for small planes is Kadina.

: Health bus to local and city health facilities by appointment.

- **Local Government**

: District Council of the Copper Coast, servicing Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo. District Office phone number: 8821 1600.

7. Further Comments

- **Partnership arrangements with other groups**

We work closely with the Junior Primary educators and the leadership group at Moonta Area School. We are able to access some resources including the library and finance officer, agricultural area and oval.

We liaise with Healthy families, CAFHS and Families SA in regards to children who may need assistance during their time a kindy.

We are part of the Northern Yorke Partnership group. This group meets twice a term with the children and young people from our area being our core business. This group consists of Moonta kindergarten and Area School, Bute Kindergarten and Primary School, Wallaroo mines Primary School, Kadina Kindergarten and Memorial School and Wallaroo Kindergarten and Primary School.

A CAFHS nurse comes each term to speak with parents and screen children close to school entry.