PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 07/07/2013

Centre number: 6508

Centre name: Coomandook & Districts Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director
  Cheryl Wallis
- Postal address
  C/- Post Office, Coomandook SA 5261
- Location address
  Dukes Highway, Coomandook SA 5261
- DECD Region
  Murray & Mallee
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
  0.5 Kilometres from local GPO
- Telephone number
  85733176
- Fax number
  85733176
- Preschool website address:
  http://www.coomandookgn.sa.edu.au/
- Preschool e-mail address
  dl.6508_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance

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• Co-located/stand-alone
  Stand-alone site however it neighbours Coomandook Area School Grounds
• Programs operating at the preschool
  ❖ Pre Entry
    This is offered in the term prior to the child starting at the Kindergarten. It builds from 1 hour 15 minutes in the first Transition to a full day by the end of the Transition program.
  ❖ “Pre-Kindy” Program
    The “Pre-Kindy” program is classed as a Preschool Associated Program and is offered as a value added service to the Community. This program can only be offered if the Kindergarten has the capacity within its current resources (staffing ratios and assigned physical capacity). A child can start in the “Pre-Kindy” program at the beginning of any school term following them turning 3 years 6 months.
  ❖ Sessional “Kindergarten” Program for eligible children
    We offer 3 full days per fortnight (Tuesday and Thursday one week and Tuesday the following week). To check when a child is eligible to start in the funded “Kindergarten” Program see the Same First Day information at http://www.earlyyears.sa.edu.au/
  ❖ Funded Occasional Care
    This program is available for children ages between 2 to 5 years. It operates on Tuesday Mornings from 8:45am-12pm. Cost is $5.00 per session or $1.50 per session with current Health Care Card.
  ❖ Lunch/Full Day Program
    Yes
  ❖ Bilingual Support
    To identified children requiring support
  ❖ Preschool Support
    To identified children requiring support

2. Key Centre Policies
• Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose
  The purpose of the Coomandook & Districts Kindergarten is to support a play based quality teaching and learning environment for all children that results in a high level of student engagement and involvement.

3. Curriculum
• Framework used:
  The Early Years Learning Framework of Australia – “Belonging, Being & Becoming”
Core Values Program - Manners, Sharing, Fun, Kindness, Friends, Respect, Listening & Self Confidence

- Specific curriculum approaches
  We provide a play based, child centred and initiated learning program. We support Inquiry Based Learning, incorporating the ‘Mindstretchers’ philosophy, principles and practices.

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
  Transition Program occurs from Home to Kindergarten and Kindergarten to School throughout the term and year. We have strong links with the Junior School that enhances the children’s movement from one environment to another.

  We connect with the school in Assemblies, Book Week Activities and Performances & Productions where possible. We also visit the Community Library (located at the Coomandook Area School) on Tuesday each week.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
  Cheryl Wallis – Director/Teacher
  Karen Schmerl – Early Childhood Worker (Contract)
  Michelle Cameron – Early Childhood Worker & Occasional Care Worker (Contract)

- Performance Management Program
  Performance Development Meetings occur approximately once per term in a formal manner. Staff engage in Professional Conversations both formally and informally on a regular basis. The Performance Management Program aligns to the DECD Performance and Development Policy and Guidelines.
5. **Centre Facilities**

- **Buildings and grounds**
  The building was built in 1986. It has had a small renovation recently to enclose a back verandah. The Kindergarten grounds are attractive with 2 slides, a boat, swings, playgroup equipment, vegetable garden, amphitheatre area, sandpit and mud digging patch, storage shed, a path that meanders through a mounded garden and a bike track. There is a grass area for the children to play and enjoy. The site is fully fenced providing children with a secure place to learn and explore. The site is boarded with the Coomandook Area School enabling us to access the School Library and other facilities throughout the year.

- **Capacity (per session)**
  23 children

- **Centre Ownership**
  DECD

- **Access for children and staff with disabilities**
  The site has wheelchair access.
6. **Local Community** (intended for country preschools)

- **General characteristics:**
  Working opportunities in Coomandook would consist of mostly Farming Positions. It is a large cropping and grazing district.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool**
  Parent Roster to assist during Kindy sessions, Governing Council Meetings, and Fundraising

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool**
  Coomandook Area School

- **Other local care and educational facilities,**
  Child Care Facilities available in Meningie and Murray Bridge

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**
  Coomandook General Store in is 0.5 kilometres from site.
  Tailem Bend is 34 kilometres from site that provides more shopping facilities
  Murray Bridge is 58 kilometres from site and provides a vast range of services and facilities.

- **Other local facilities**
  Medical Facilities are available in Tailem Bend and Murray Bridge.
  Sporting Clubs include Peake & Districts Football and Netball Club, Tailem Bend Football & Netball Club, Boarder & Tintinara Downs Football & Netball Club, Tennis Clubs and Cricket Clubs in the local area.

- **Availability of staff housing**
  Limited

- **Accessibility**
  130 kilometres to Adelaide
  Major Public Transport options are available from Tailem Bend or Murray Bridge by Bus/Coaches.

- **Local Government**
  Coomandook is located in the Coorong District Council Area

7. **Further Comments**

- **Partnership arrangements with other groups**
  We are involved with the Murray and Mallee Region. The Site Leader attends Regional Leadership Days approximately once or twice per term.
  We are also involved in a Cluster Group that involves the local Kindergarten and Schools. (Coonalpyn, Meningie, Coomandook, Karoonda, Tintinara)