



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 02/17

Centre number: 6541

Centre name: Renmark Children's Centre

1. General information

- Preschool Director
Gale Hansen
- Postal address
204 Eighteenth Street, Renmark SA 5341
- Location address
204 Eighteenth Street, Renmark SA 5341
- DECD Region
Berri Portfolio
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)
252km (Adelaide)
- Telephone number
08 85866063
- Fax number
08 85866159
- Preschool website address:
www.childrenscentres.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address
dl.6541_leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment
Preschool Enrolments Term 3
2013 64
2014 72
2015 66
2016 62

- Co-located/stand-alone
Stand-alone Centre – integrated Preschool and Long Day Care (Child Care)
- Programs operating at the preschool
 - ❖ Long Day Care Hours: 7.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday
 - ❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
8 sessions offered per week. 15 hours access for eligible children. Full day and half day combinations offered.
 - ❖ Occasional Care
Available through Child Care program. (Program not funded)
 - ❖ Lunch/Full Day Program
Kindy lunch care for children attending full day preschool session. Cost charged through Child Care program on site.
 - ❖ Bilingual Support
As required: e.g. Turkish, Punjabi, Vietnamese.
 - ❖ Preschool Support
Provided for children with special needs e.g. speech and language.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Vision: We provide high quality care and education to children and their families from a diverse multicultural, rural community in a vibrant, responsive, integrated early childhood centre.

Our Philosophy: Renmark Children's Centre is an integrated services site that is committed to the wellbeing, health, care and education of all children, families, staff and members of our community.

We value and promote a sense of ownership through collaboration and participation which maximises positive learning outcomes for all.

We believe:

- That each child is individual, unique and important, and has the right to develop to their full potential
- That the staff are one of the centre's most valuable resources
- That parents and families are the child's first educators
- That the centre is a valuable community resource

Learning Priorities:

- Literacy – Oral Language
- Numeracy
- Wellbeing

3. Curriculum

- Framework used:
Early Years Learning Framework: - Belonging, Being & Becoming.
- Core Values
Respect Partnerships Persistence Accountability
- Specific curriculum approaches
The Centre works in partnership with families and the community to provide a program that is responsive to the education and care needs of children.
Further principles underlining the philosophy of the Centre are:
 - Valuing learning through play
 - Accountability through reflecting, evaluating and reviewing
 - An inclusive program

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
- Collaborative transition programs to local schools

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
Preschool: Director PSD4 (1.0), Preschool Teachers (1.4), ECW (0.5)
Additional Preschool staff as required.
Child Care: Children's Services Employees (permanent and casual).
Administration Officers and Cook.
- Performance Development Program
Performance Development meetings held regularly with Director.
- Access to special support staff
Education Office staff: Disability Coordinator, Psychologist - Educational Services, Speech Pathologist.
Riverland Community Health Services: Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Early Intervention Coordinator.
CAMHS, CYHS.
- Other
Community Development Coordinator
Family Services Coordinator
Allied Health

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
Two older brick buildings recently renovated and joined by a modern, spacious administration area, providing a safe, common entrance and exit for all clients.
Extensive outdoor play spaces, incorporating; lawn areas, shaded play spaces, playground equipment, cubby houses, sandpits and garden areas.
Separate play space for under 2 year old children.
Private off street car parking available for staff and clients.

- Capacity (per session)
Whole site license 89 children in total.
Preschool 39 children
Child Care 50 children (under 2's 15 children)
- Centre Ownership
Buildings owned by DECD.
Grounds maintained by Governing Council / Management Committee.
Contract Cleaner and Contract Gardener.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities
Disabled toilet in foyer, disabled toilet and shower in preschool area.
Wheelchair access available to all areas of the Centre.
- Other
Parenting Room with kitchen area, centrally located in Centre.
Book Borrowing available for community use.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics
Renmark is the largest of the Riverland towns and has a strong service, light industrial and horticultural base. Renmark is situated close to Berri, Barmera and Loxton.
Many migrant, ethnic and refugee families of diverse cultural backgrounds have settled in the area.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
Active Governing Council / Management Committee. Parental support is strong. Local community support is always generous.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
Children from the Centre attend Renmark Primary School (across the road), Renmark West Primary School, Renmark North Primary School or St Joseph's School. Other preschools in the area are Renmark West Kindergarten and Renmark North CPC.
- Other local care and educational facilities
TAFE Campus, Renmark High School and Renmark Primary School all in close vicinity to Renmark Children's Centre. Other local schools include; Renmark West Primary School, Renmark North Primary School and St Joseph's School.
OSHC for school age children operates from Renmark Primary School.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
Renmark has a comprehensive shopping precinct – Main Street and Renmark plaza. Local businesses include; Woolworths, Foodland, BIG W and a number of variety stores.
- Other local facilities
Renmark & Paringa District Hospital, Renmark Medical Clinic, Recreation Centre with indoor heated pool, outdoor local swimming centre, numerous sporting opportunities and facilities.
- Availability of staff housing
Government Employee Housing is available along with homes/properties to rent or purchase.
- Accessibility
Renmark is accessible by bus from Adelaide and Mildura. Air travel available from Adelaide or Mildura.
- Local Government
Renmark Paringa Council.

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups

Children's Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting support children and families to achieve the best possible learning, health and wellbeing outcomes in a universal setting with targeted responses for families who may require additional support.

The official opening of the Renmark Children's Centre for Early Childhood Development and Parenting was in 2008.

The Renmark Children's Centre firmly holds sustainability as a cornerstone of our ethos and considers that we must be a role model within our community. We are a solar school and take positive action to reduce waste, recycle and reuse materials where possible. The newest part of our building is designed to let in natural light and minimise the interface between indoors and outdoors.

We pride ourselves on being a family friendly Children's Centre and work to build positive and sustainable relationships with families and children.