PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 6613
Centre name: Crystal Brook Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director – Rebecca Crawford
- Postal address – Mais Tce, Crystal Brook
- Location address - Mais Tce, Crystal Brook
- DECS Region - Yorke and Mid North
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km) -
- Telephone number – 8636 2411
- Fax number – 8636 2002
- Preschool website address - www.crystalkgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address – CBKindyInfo.Info837@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance

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- Co-located/stand-alone
  - Co-located with the Crystal Brook Primary School
- Programs operating at the preschool
- Universal Access – 15 hrs implemented Kindergarten for eligible children – Monday 8:45 am to 12:45 pm (even weeks), Every Tuesday and Thursday 8:45 am – 3:15 pm during school terms.
- Early Entry is available for children require.
- Funded Occasional Care – Under 2’s and Over 2’s on Tuesday and Thursday mornings 8:45 – 11:45 am.
- Bilingual Support
- Preschool Support
- Playgroup on Fridays Mornings 9:30 to 11:30 am.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Philosophy

  At Crystal Brook Kindergarten we believe that  
  “We learn through play together”.

  A play based learning environment for children 0-5 years provides effective tools for their unique developmental needs and lifelong learning. Relationships between staff, children, families, community and specialist services ensures an environment that caters for each child’s individual needs and potential.

We value:

<table>
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<th>Relationships</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Creativity</th>
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<tr>
<td>We are committed to:</td>
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<td>We are committed to:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Working collaboratively,</td>
<td>- Valuing achievement of others and celebrate progress made</td>
<td>- Providing opportunity and materials to develop and express individual ideas.</td>
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<td>- Develop trusting and caring</td>
<td>- High expectations for all learners,</td>
<td>- Draw on past experience and knowledge of families and learners.</td>
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<td>relationships.</td>
<td>- A learning program that caters for different learning styles and stages.</td>
<td>- Celebrate ‘having a go’.</td>
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<td>- Interactions between children and</td>
<td>- Reflecting on learning.</td>
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<td>adults and children, and families of</td>
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<td>caregivers</td>
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<td>- Valuing involvement and support.</td>
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3. **Curriculum**

- **Framework used** –
  Early Years Learning Framework – Belonging, Being and Becoming.

- **Specific curriculum approaches**
  - The centre has a strong focus on Emergent Literacy, specifically on Oral Language. This is an important element for building relationships, developing the learning program and improving the outdoor learning environment.

- **Joint programmes/special curriculum projects**

  Currently we have small groups each kindy day. We use the Playing and Learning to Sociaise (PALS) and Keeping Safe, Child Protection Curriculum to develop children’s Wellbeing.

  CaHFS and Learning Together use the building. There is an agreement in place outlining the details.

4. **Centre Based Staff**

- **Staff Profile**
  - Director (0.6)
  - Teacher (0.55)
  - ECW 2 – Occasional Care (8:15 hrs)
  - ECW 1 – Occasional Care (7:15 hrs)
  - Preschool Support Worker (10 hrs)

- **Performance Management Program**
  Performance Development Plans are developed and managed by staff to improve their knowledge and skills. The Director provides feedback and assists in sourcing information and training.

  Staff meetings are on a fortnightly basis to discuss issues of the centre, and develop knowledge and skills with some training and development.

- **Access to special support staff**
  The centre has a steady turn over of Preschool Support Staff. We have difficulty with sourcing trained staff. To maintain continuity, the teacher does the speech therapy activities with children who have speech and language difficulties. The preschool support worker relieves the teacher
from the floor to do this. The preschool support worker aids children with additional needs with play activities, routines and personal needs.

- **Other**
  The centre has begun the process to start Invenue Family Day Care. Currently there are no Family Day Care workers wanting to use the site. There are 2 Family Day Care Providers in the town.

5. **Centre Facilities**
   - Buildings and grounds –
   - The current facilities were opened in 2001.

- Capacity (per session) – 43 children
- Centre Ownership
- Access for children and staff with disabilities – Yes
- Other
6. **Local Community** (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics:
  Crystal Brook comprises a rural community that is relatively isolated from Adelaide (2 ½ Hours drive) and other major centres, (20 minutes from Port Pirie) – Wide variety of incomes, family structures and a lot of extended families. Majority of families are Anglo Australian.

  The community is predominantly supported by SA Water and Transport SA Regional Offices, Suzlon Wind Farms and Businesses supply Rural Properties for employment.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
  The centre is well supported by community groups and has a strong Governing Council.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool –
  95% Crystal Brook Primary School

- Other local care and educational facilities –
  2 Family Day Care Providers, Crystal Brook Primary School, Gladstone High School (with commuting bus for students).

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities – 1 Supermarket, two Hotels (1 with accommodation), Post Office, Chemist, Butcher, Newsagent, Service Station, Antique Shop, Electrical Shop.

- Other local facilities - SA Water Regional Headquarters, Department of Road Transport, Hospital, Caravan Park, Golf Course, Swimming Pool, Sporting Groups, Service Clubs.

- Availability of staff housing - There are very few private houses for rent. SACON houses may be available but demand is high. Accommodation may be found at the Crystal Brook Hotel and Vans and Cabins available at the Caravan Park.

- Accessibility - Bus service to and from Adelaide is available daily.

- Local Government
7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups
  
The Child Youth Health nurse does pre-school checks (4½ year olds) at the kindergarten usually once per term.