PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT  Updated: 2014

Centre number: 4637
Centre name: Mount Barker Kindergarten Incorporated

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Jakub Tuma
- Postal address: 2b Dumas Street, Mount Barker SA 5251
- Location address: 2b Dumas Street, Mount Barker SA 5251
- Telephone number: 8391 0685
- Fax number: 8391 3082
- Email address: dl.4637.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Web address: http://www.mtbarkerkgn.sa.edu.au
- DECD Region: Adelaide Hills

- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 40 kms
- Enrolment/Attendance: 56 / 48  Site Capacity : Currently 60
- Stand-alone. The kindergarten is next door to Mount Barker Primary and SA Dental Clinic.
- Centre Ownership: The kindergarten is a Department of Education & Child Development (DECD) owned site.

- Programs operating
  - Kindergarten for eligible children: We offer access to up to 30 hour fortnights for children over four terms (12 months). Sessions are provided in two groups:
    - Group A: Monday & Tuesday, alternate (odd weeks) Fridays
    - Group B: Wednesday & Thursday, alternate (even weeks) Fridays.
  Families enrol children in one of two groups described above.

For Operational Days / Times please refer to our web page: http://www.mtbarkerkgn.sa.edu.au

- Lunch/Full Day Program
  Yes, all eligible preschool children access our lunch program. The program is inclusive of the 15 hours a week/ 30 hour fortnight access.

- Pre-Entry to Kindergarten
  Pending site capacity, this program commences in Term 3 & continues until end of year and will operate for 3 hours a week. This will occur prior to your child attending their eligible kindergarten entitlement.
Bilingual Support
Pending need, we apply for extra funding to support bilingual support.

Preschool Support
Yes/special needs. For more information please see Director.

Playgroup-Gigglebugs
This is a parent run program. For more detailed information please contact the Director, or alternatively download our Playgroup brochure from our web page; http://www.mtbarkerkgn.sa.edu.au

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities
The kindergarten completes an Annual Report at the end of each year and revises the Quality Improvement Plan each year.

Questionnaires are distributed to families during the year and form the basis of review in determining future goals for the kindergarten.

The current priorities are stated in the Quality Improvement Plan and incorporate one or more of the 7 Quality Areas identified under the National Quality Framework.

(For an overview of our priorities read below. Please contact the site and request a copy of the centre(s) Quality Improvement Plan which contains, in full, our priorities. It is also available via a web page http://www.mtbarkerkgn.sa.edu.au

- Literacy & Numeracy Programs
- Enhancing our Learning Environments through active, ongoing, re-development

- Mental Health & Wellbeing programs such as DECD Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum has been implemented.

- Implementing the Respect, Reflect and Relate document resulting in levels of improvement.

- Continued implementation of the National Quality Framework and associated national early childhood development reforms. At the core of our commitment of on-going reflection and improvement is an Inquiry Question.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia – Belonging, Being & Becoming. (The 3 B's)

- Core Values: Play, Learn, Grow through providing an environment of Trust, Respect, Nurturing, Caring, Responsibility, Empowerment

- Specific curriculum approaches
All parents are asked to attend an Information Session where staff provides information re the Kindergarten’s curriculum – based on Belonging, Being and Becoming Framework. (Why we do what we do).

Upon commencing kindergarten, each child’s family is given the opportunity to complete a questionnaire detailing their child’s interests, strengths, hope for kindergarten and areas which need further developing. The staff uses this as an early resource in determining future directions for individual children. At approximately half-way during their kindergarten year, parents of kindergarten children are offered the opportunity for an interview with kindergarten...
staff concerning their child’s development at kindergarten. **Please Note:** Staff are prepared to talk to parents at any time. Also when staff detects a need for a child, they approach the parents to make a time to discuss the issue.

A portfolio is developed with each child during their time at kindergarten, providing a collection of children’s artwork, their literacy and numeracy projects, photographs and kindergarten experiences along with a **Statements of Learning** report that is presented to the child and their family prior to school transition. The parents then have an opportunity to comment on their child’s summative report their reflection’s of their child’s time at kindergarten. This document is then shared with the appropriate school upon parental consent.

- **Special Curriculum Projects:**
  
  Strong connections with Mt Barker primary School including excursions and performances, re-vegetation programme. Connections with Mt Barker community Health services, Child & Youth health Services, The Clover Leaf Men’s Shed and Blue Stone, the local Library and TAFE, as well as the engagement of student teachers & work experience students from local schools.

4. **Centre Based Staff**

- **Staff Profile**
  
  Director – 1.0
  
  Teacher – 1.2 – Two Teacher(s) = 0.6 (3 days a week)
  
  One teacher for each group.
  
  ECW 2 0.5 presently a full time position.

  **Commonwealth Universal Access funding includes an additional staffing ratio of 0.4 teacher and 0.1 ECW. This is apportioned amongst the staff team.**

**Performance Management Program**

All staff undergo a Performance Development Review on a regularly, minimum twice a year, basis.

**Access to special support staff**

Support Workers are employed through funding provided by DECD Adelaide Hills Regional Office and Kindergarten Early Intervention Assistance funding to work with children with special needs during the kindergarten session. DECD Speech Pathologist, Psychologist and Special Educators from the Regional Office visit and support children with special needs and kindergarten staff.

**Other**

Mount Barker Kindergarten has benefited from the employment of staff who are employed to work at Mount Barker Kindergarten. This can be dependent on the fraction of time worked, with the best interests of the children paramount. Staff meetings are held on Friday’s, at the conclusion of our Friday kindergarten session.

The Director is responsible for Kindergarten run & funded programs. The Director also oversees and supports the kindergarten bus care, when applicable, and contract cleaner.
5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and grounds**
  Building and land are owned by DECD
  The kindergarten is accessible to the disabled.
  School bus service is available pending space for families in outlying areas.

- **Centre’s financial position**
  We are a financially viable site, with our books subject to audit on an annual basis by the State Government.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- **General characteristics:** Mt Barker continues to be a growing community due to new land developments opening. Originally a farming community famous for its wheat production. The CBD in Mt Barker is continuing to develop as new business move into the area and the population.

- **Community and Parent Involvement:** The kindergarten relies on community involvement & families actively encouraged being a part of the kindergarten community through special events, fundraising, Governing Council meetings and the day to day operation of the site.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:** Strong attendance to Mt Barker Primary school located beside the kindergarten. Children also attend Mt Barker South Primary and other public schools throughout the Adelaide Hills. Private schools attended are St Mark’s Lutheran, St Francis de Sales and the Waldorf school.

- **Other Local Care/Educational facilities:** Out of School Hours Care (OHSC) is located at Mt Barker Primary School & Mount Barker South Primary. There are several Child care Centres located in Mt Barker and surrounding townships. The Community Family House offers crèche. Family Day Care Providers also provide a service in Mount Barker and surrounding townships.

- **Commercial/Industrial/Shopping facilities:** Mt Barker has a large shopping precinct with easy access to surrounding areas. Mt Barker also has a large industrial estate located to the east that caters to many local businesses.

- **Other Local facilities:** Mt Barker has several medical clinics, a hospital, Post Office, recreational facilities and bus and taxi service; several restaurants, pubs, TAFE college co-located with local library. One large cinema complex, a golf course and plenty of parks and walking trails—all surrounded by traditional farming land, with a growing mining industry nearby.

- **Availability of staff housing:** Major growth in housing with rental opportunities available.

- **Accessibility:** 40 minutes from Adelaide CBD, easy access by freeway. Serviced by bus – with a park and drive service in Dumas Street commencing operation in 2014. Kindergarten is located close to town centre and all services.

- **Local Government:** District Council of Mount Barker.
7. Further Comments

- Establishment of new services and/or programs
  - In keeping with the Federal Grants for Literacy and Numeracy – kindergarten staff are mindful that our programs and practices have a Literacy & Numeracy foci.

- The kindergarten opened in the early 1980’s with families who had accessed the kindergarten themselves as children now bringing their own children along. Diverse socio economic area inclusive of families from a variety of backgrounds, cultures, and languages.

- The kindergarten community rely heavily on fundraising, donations and payment of fees to maintain adequate resources.