



Context Statement

Centre number: 4164

Centre name: Port Lincoln Children's Centre

The Port Lincoln Children's Centre supports Aboriginal Culture, lifestyles and child rearing practices by recognising parents and extended families. As well as acknowledging and respecting the cultural heritage that all children, families and staff bring to the centre.

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Joanne Smith
 - Assistant Director for Childcare: Lynn Bilney
 - Location: 80 Saint Andrews Terrace, Port Lincoln SA 5606
 - Postal address: Box 787, Port Lincoln SA 5606
 - DECD: Port Lincoln Partnership
 - Geographical location – 670km from GPO
 - Telephone: 08 86833073
 - Fax number: 08 86834266
 - Website: www.plcc.sa.edu.au
 - Email: dl.4164.director@schools.sa.edu.au
 - Enrolment/attendance
 - Capacity of 53 for whole centre – 21 places for childcare program, 32 places per session for preschool/early learning kindergarten program
 - an Integrated Service that offers specific days for 3 year old Aboriginal children, provides a bus service for preschool and kindy children, supports families through home visiting program, engages with support services/agencies to meet the needs of the children, engages with and supports local Aboriginal community organisations and events
- **Programs operating at the centre**
 - **Preschool** (4 year old children): 5 sessions (15hrs) operating Monday & Tuesday 8:45am to 3:00pm and Wednesday 8:45am to 12:00pm
 - **Early Learning kindergarten Program** (3 year old Aboriginal children, children under the Guardianship of the Minister): 4 sessions (12hrs) operating Thursday & Friday 8:45am to 3:00pm
 - Bus service available for preschool and kindy children attending PLCC only
 - **Long Day Care:** operates 5 days per week for 50 weeks of the year. Childcare is open from 8.30am-5.15pm. Priority of Access Policy is followed
 - A cooked /hot meal Lunch is provided at a minimal cost
 - Preschool Support: additional support is available for children with identified needs

- who require support for speech, language, physical, and social skills
- Additional support can be accessed through Community health if required for children enrolled in childcare program
- General health checks are conducted annually by the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service for Aboriginal 4 year old children
- Before school checks conducted

2.. Key Centre Policies

- Our vision is for all children and families to feel that they belong at Port Lincoln Children's Centre – to have reciprocal relationships based on respect and trust – to have a connection to the Aboriginal community
- Our mission is to provide a safe affordable environment that enables children to challenge their capabilities – to maintain excellence in Early Childhood Education and Care – for children to experience belonging: knowing where and with whom they belong- being: time to seek meaning of their world- becoming: developing identities, knowledge, understanding, skills and relationships

Centre Priorities:

- Improvement priorities are outlined in the current Quality Improvement Plan
- Literacy, Numeracy, fostering learning dispositions, embedding sustainable practices in our environment

3. Curriculum

- National Quality Standards
- Early Years Learning Framework
- Parent participation: Individual Learning Plans for all children
- Reflective practices
- Play based learning
- Aboriginal Cultural activities

4. Centre Based Staff

- 1.0 Preschool Director
- 1.0 Assistant Childcare Director
- 1.0 Preschool teacher
- 7 Early Childhood educators
- Finance officer
- Cook
- Bus driver/ grounds person
- Additional staff as per attendance/ funding

- Funding through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy allows for additional Aboriginal community members to be employed in PLCC Early Learning Kindergarten Program
- All educators and employees at PLCC have required legal certificates for working with children

- Performance Management Program

Performance Management is undertaken with all staff by the Preschool Director or the Assistant Director on a formal and informal basis as part of a whole centre commitment to improving quality education and care services.

- Access to special support staff
specialist support programs can be accessed by children on a needs basis. In the past we have had support from DECD Speech Therapists – who visit on a regular basis, plan and implement individual and whole site goals and speech and language programs, held skill sessions to upskill preschool support staff to implement programs for children.

Speech and language screens are completed in the first 2 weeks of term 1 each year for all preschool children. Children who require additional support for speech, language or behaviour are referred to the DECD preschool support services. Children attending the 4 year old preschool program are assessed for phonological awareness in terms 1 and 4 each year. Children attending childcare can access support services via a referral to Community Health services.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

The building is a stand alone centre that was built in 1996 as an integrated services to provide affordable care and learning for the Aboriginal community of Port Lincoln. The Port Lincoln Children's Centre was previously located in Third Avenue and Kooyonga Avenue as a kindergarten program only before relocating to current location.

PLCC has a bike track for children to ride bikes, scooters, cars as well as helping educators to maintain a veggie garden. The bike track is available for hire to the community – conditions apply.

PLCC has a Reconciliation Area which is used for cultural purposes as well as an outdoor space for children to engage with the natural environment. Fruit trees were planted in 2015 and is maintained by grounds person and educators.

The centre consists of an open area inside to foster sibling/cross age interactions. The childcare and kindy program operate jointly under one roof but at times maintain separate programs as well as joint programs. All events are jointly planned, implemented and celebrated as a whole site. There is a sleep area designated for childcare children at rest time and a baby sleep room. There are 2 bathrooms at each end of the building with a nappy changing area for younger children. A kitchen/cook provides a cooked lunch for children.

There are 2 store rooms, a laundry, a staff room, work room, 2 adult toilets and an office for the director.

The outdoors play areas are designed to enable children to challenge themselves, create, imagine, explore, climb, build in groups or individually. The long verandah provides undercover spaces for inclement weather. The

digging/mud patch, sandpit and cubby area are undercover as well as a monster fort for children to engage in dramatic play situations