Centre number: 6616

Centre name: Elliston RSL Memorial Children’s Centre

1. General information

- Centre name: Elliston RSL Memorial Children's Centre
- Centre number: 6616
- Preschool Director: Karen Agars
- Postal address: c/- Post Office
  Elliston
  S.A.  5670
- Location address: Memorial Drive
  Elliston
  S.A.  5670
- Courier number: Elliston RSL Memorial Children’s Centre
- Telephone number: (08) 86879113
- Fax number: (08) 86879281
- DECS District: EYRE
- Road distance from GPO (km): 687km by road
- Assistant Director (if applicable): N/A
• Staffing Numbers
  \(3\) (2 funded by DECS, 1 funded by Global Budget)

• Programs operating at the centre, with a brief description of each:
  
  ❖ Pre Entry
    :N/A
  
  ❖ Occasional Care
    :N/A
  
  ❖ Long Day care (eg time operating, licensed places, employment details, accreditation)
    :N/A
  
  ❖ Other Services available
    :Preschool: 3 sessions per week under the Rural Policy (7 to 10 children) - all day Tuesday and Thursday mornings.
    :Playgroup: 1 session per week - Friday mornings.
    :Lunch Care: Tuesdays
    :Emergency Care.
    :Preschool Support for children with additional needs.
    :Transition to Elliston Area School.
    :Early Learning Program - (Toy Library) once per month.
    :In Care Family Day Care in the Centre every Monday.

• Partnerships 21 status
  :Yes, since 2000. Now called "Local Management".

• Enrolment/Attendance trends
  :Numbers range between 7 up to 10. Attendance is regular.

• Special Arrangements
  :Some children travel on the School Buses which is why we have a full day to enable the out of town children to acces the buses to travel in.

• Year of opening
  :1984

• Public transport access
  :N/A

2. Children

• General characteristics
  :Children all from 2 parent families.
  :More and more instances of both parents working.
  :Children travel in from farms (use of school buses)
  :Healthy children.
  :Happy with a great desire to learn.
  :Very relaxed community.

• (Pastoral) Care Programs
  :N/A
• Special Needs support
  :Over the years there has been a high percentage of children with additional needs. We have been supported by the Port Lincoln Special Educator and funding has been made available for Support Workers to be employed to work with these children. This year, 2008, we have had one child with additional needs attending the Centre.
• Child Behaviour Management
  :We have a Child Behaviour Management Policy and the staff meet often to discuss issues and ways to address these immediately, following individual goals for each child.
• Special Programs

3. Key Centre Policies

• Our Priority for the next 3 years is “How can we further develop learner engagement in creating a community that is just and inclusive?”
• We are a “Sun Smart “ Centre.
• We have a Health Food Policy
• Environmentally Friendly Policy
• Disaster Plan (Bushfire Plan, Evacuation and Invacuation Procedure)
• OH&S Policies
• Accreditation/Philosophy (where applicable)
  :N/A

4. Curriculum

• Framework used (0-3 SACSA)
  (3-5 SACSA)
  We also look at Learning through Play
  Knowledge of Child Development
  Family and Community needs.
Believe that early childhood is the foundation years for preparing a child for life. Preschool is a part of children’s early learning experiences in which they build the rest of their lives.
The curriculum fosters exploration and imaginative play, promoting curiosity, communication skills and creativity, encouraging independence and self esteem, whilst respecting the rights of others and promoting an awareness of our environment. Individual needs and interests of the children are an important focus. We plan goals for individual children.
• Special Needs
  :These children follow a curriculum that is suited to them and their special needs but are also very much included in the program with the other children.
Special curriculum features (include programs for specific groups, eg, disabled, new arrivals; social justice strategies)

Children are observed and staff and parents set individual goals for each child, taking into account their interests, their stage of development and where we are wanting to take their learning.

EC Pedagogy:

Assessment procedures and reporting:
- We observe regularly and keep anecdotal notes.
- We use photographs to record learning.
- We have staff discussions at the end of each session to plan from what had happened that day.
- We keep samples of children's drawing and writing to display and show development.
- We keep library book borrowing information.
- We report at Parent Sharing times (Parent Interviews) and listen to parents talking about their child giving us more information to help in our understanding and our planning.
- We have contact with the R/1 teacher every week and are able to pass on information of children about to start school.
- We write Summative Reports.

Each child has a Profile and their own "Learning Story" folder and feel ownership of these.

Joint programmes/special curriculum projects:
- N/A

5. Co-Curricular Activities

General:
- Use of parent's skills eg, clay, gardening, cooking, painting.
- Short excursions.
- Use of Literacy Kits.
- Use of Persona Dolls visiting children's homes after every session.

Special:

6. Staff

Staff Profile (Status, classification/award, employment details):
- Director .4
- ECW1 .35
- ECW1 .03 (funded from Global Budget) – is our Finance Officer.
Leadership structure
: Staff meet for lunch on a Thursday and discuss as a team any Centre issues, OH&S issues, individual plans for children, programming for the Centre.
: Director involved in Leadership Days each term, in the Mid Eyre Hub phonelinks and Sub Regional Group.

Staff support systems (e.g. cooperative work groups)
: Open communication between staff, listening to each other and supporting each other.

Performance management program
: Beginning of each term the staff write their own personal and professional goals for the term and are given the opportunity to monitor them.

Staff Policies
:

Access to special support staff
: Contact numbers are accessible for Psychological Health issues.

Other
:

7. Centre Facilities

Buildings and grounds
: Was previously the RSL Clubrooms. Renovated in 1984 to become a preschool. It is a very well kept building with calm atmosphere because of the interior paint work and decor. Lovely spacious indoor area. Large office area.
: Grounds are well established with trees giving ample shade. Slopes and different levels and textures throughout, providing interest and challenge to the children. A sensory area and vegetable garden are special features as well as the wooden flowers and animals in front of the Centre.

Capacity
: The assessed capacity is 160 and the actual building area is 160.

Centre Ownership
: Owned by DECS since 1995.

Specialist Facilities
:

Access for children and staff with disabilities
: There is a ramp at the main door.

Access to bus transport (eg. Centre bus, community bus)
: N/A

Other
8. Centre Operations

- Constitution
- Decision making structures (eg. Management structure, Organisational chart, sub committees)
  : Staff work in collaboration with the parent committee in their decision making, goal setting and management of service. The departmental accountability processes involves parent consultation.
  : We are a Level 1 Centre.
  : Parent Committee Meetings are held each term. (Governing Council)
  : Sub committees are formed when ever needed.
- Regular Publications
  : An Early Childhood Newsletter is circulated twice each term.
  : A segment is published in the weekly school newsletter.
- Other communication processes
  : Parent Interviews
  : Incidental chats throughout the term
  : Other parent meetings whenever the need arises
  : Letters and phone calls.
- Centre financial position. We employ an ECW to do our finances. She is employed for two hours per week. We have a Treasurer elected at the AGM. We have a Finance Committee consisting of the Director, Chairperson, Treasurer and Finance Officer. A Finance meeting is held before every Governing Council meeting. Finances are monitored closely.
- Computer packages used (Quickens - Lite,)
- Special funding N/A
- Other Parent groups
  : The Playgroup is represented on the Governing Council.

9. Local Community

- General characteristics: (eg. work, languages, culture)
  : Very small, rural, coastal town with surrounding farming and fishing industries.
  : The Centre services the district of Elliston, Sheringa, Bramfield, Mt. Wedge and Colton.
  : Community consists of Anglo/Australian families.
  : Families come from farming, fishing, town (business, hospital, council, school) alternative life style and some unemployed lifestyles.
  : Port Lincoln (180km) is the main Centre.
- Feeder schools/preschools/care/OSHC
  : All children go to the Elliston Area School.
Parent and community involvement

: Parent involvement is high and community involvement is also high. There is a feeling of ownership and pride in the Centre.

Other local care and educational facilities/Development Profiles

: There is one school - the Elliston Area School.
: Care is offered through Family Day Care by two Careproviders (one in her home and one in the Centre each Monday – In Care FDC)

Other local facilities

: Hospital
: Post Office
: Bakery
: Garage
: One General Store
: District Council of Elliston
: Sports Oval, Tennis Courts, Sports Centre, Golf Course,
: Community Information Centre
: Beach and Jetty

Availability of staff housing

: Housing is available from Government Housing

Accessibility (e.g. public transport – air)

: None. Can travel by bus or plane to Port Lincoln but need a ride for the 2 hours to Elliston.

Local Government body

: The District Council of Elliston is based in Elliston.

Special Focus

: A beautiful seaside town in a rural area. The coastal scenery is superb and the recreational fishing is excellent.

10. Further Comments

Establishment of new service(s)/program(s)

Partnership/cooperation/arrangements with other groups

: Partnership with parents and the community
: A strong liaison with the school is continuously being developed.
: Strong connection with the Playgroup.
: CAYHS visit once each month and use the Centre as a base.
: Working with the District Council - special issues and use of equipment.
: RSL re ANZAC DAY and Remembrance Day