1. General Information

Centre name
: Ballara Park Kindergarten

Centre number
: 3608

Preschool Director
: Ms Marilyn Clark

Location address
: 9 Ormonde Avenue, Warradale, SA, 5046

Telephone number
: 8296 2928

Fax number
: 8358 1804

E-mail address
: kindydirector@ballarapkgn.sa.edu.au

DECS District
: Southern Adelaide

Geographical location
: 10 kms from GPO

Enrolment/Attendance numbers
: Our physical capacity is 42 children each of the two groups, giving us a total possible enrolment of 84. We also have limitations of enrolment due to staffing levels. Currently 75 children are enrolled in our Pre-school program. Trends throughout this district appear to be an increase in demand for pre-school services due to many younger families moving into this locality.

Ballara Park is a stand alone Centre.
: We are not co-located with a school or other service. We are a member of the Holdfast cluster of preschools and we work collaboratively with the eight other preschools in our cluster.

Programs Operating at this Centre

Pre-entry
: Ballara Park Kindergarten is no longer able to offer separate pre-entry sessions for children prior to starting kindergarten. We encourage families to come to attend playgroup sessions to enable children to become familiar with the environment before starting kindergarten. Orientation visits are organised when possible and families are notified about them in the term prior to starting.
Sessional Kindergarten for eligible 4 year old children

All children attend kindergarten for full days. One group of children attends on Mondays and Wednesdays and the other group attends on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our session times are from 8.30am until 4.00p.m.

Playgroup

Playgroup is on Fridays from 9.15 am to 10.45 am

2. Curriculum

Our educational program is based on the principles and practices of the Early Years Learning Framework.

The learning outcomes for the Early Years Framework are:
Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity
Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world
Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners
Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

Learning opportunities in literacy and numeracy are integral to all activities and experiences we offer. Literacy and numeracy development in young children is best fostered through purposeful play activities rather than paper exercises and drills. While we do provide some explicit instruction in both literacy and numeracy, we focus on providing activities that develop children’s skills and knowledge in the areas of oral language, phonemic awareness, visual acuity, pattern awareness, number and space applications and physical development.

Our learning program usually follows a project or topic in which the children are interested. We encourage families to become involved in our program and contributions to the children’s learning are welcomed.

Core values

We believe that the individual child is the focus of the curriculum and our role is to provide experiences which support, stimulate and structure a child’s learning in order to bring about a progression of development appropriate to their needs and abilities.

We believe that the optimum development of each child’s skills, competencies and positive self-concept are achieved when families and early educators work together in partnership.

We believe that play experiences and quality interactions are important to children’s learning and significantly contribute to their social, emotional, physical, intellectual and creative growth.
3. Centre Based Staff

Staff profile

: Director (PSD1): Fraction of time 1.0
: Teacher: Fraction of time 1.4
: Early Childhood Worker(s) Level 1 Fraction of time 1.2
: Preschool support worker Fraction of time 0.25

Performance Management Program

: All staff reviewed by their line manager twice a year (6 monthly).

4. Centre Facilities

: Ballara Park is located in a quiet park setting. Features of the educational setting are:
  ❖ A bright, airy preschool room which has been acoustically treated
  ❖ A well equipped outdoor play area which is readily visible, providing a safe environment
  ❖ A sound proofed withdrawal room
  ❖ The premises are leased from Marion Council and maintained by DECD.

Paringa Park Primary, Warradale Primary and Christ the King are nearby. We also have children go on to Glenelg Primary, Brighton Primary and a range of private schools. The kindergarten is close to both bus and train transport and is within walking distance of Westfield Marion Shopping Centre.