PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 6523

Centre name: Monash Kindergarten

1. General information

- Centre name: Monash Kindergarten
- Centre number: 6523
- Preschool Director: Leanne Brooke
- Postal address: PO Box 24 Monash 5342
- Location address: Jackson Street Monash 5342
- Telephone number: 8583 6041
- Fax number: 8583 5486
- e-mail address: Leanne.brooke518@schools.sa.edu.au
- DECD Partnership: Berri Barmera Partnership
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 230kms northeast of Adelaide
- Enrolment/Attendance: 19 kindergarten children currently attend on a full day basis.
- Co-located/stand-alone: Located on Monash Primary School site.
- Programs operating
  - Pre Entry: Pre-entry will be offered in Term 4 to coincide with school transition visit times.
Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children:
- Five full day sessions per fortnight, on Mondays, Wednesdays and alternate Thursdays

Universal Access
- Thursday sessions

Lunch/Full Day Program
- Eligible kindergarten sessions

Bilingual Support
- Greek and Philippino bilingual program. Support for other languages are requested when the need arises.

Preschool Support
- Preschool support is allocated to children who meet the DECD criteria for additional needs.

Playgroup
- Friday mornings. A strong and highly committed playgroup run by a Playgroup Coordinator (parent).

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose
  1. The Monash Kindergarten has an ongoing commitment to provide contemporary electronic learning experiences for all children. Online learning experiences are accessed for statewide connectivity with other early years sites.
  2. Responding to children’s well being by investigating the Respect, Reflect, Relate document.
  3. Incorporating fitness and physical development of children into our Healthy Eating policy
  4. Implementing the Early Years Learning Framework. Child perception data will influence and supplement the implementation of this national framework.
  5. Universal Access of 15 hours per week of preschool will commence soon.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework
  - Staff use the EYLF framework, BBB and PLODS for programming, assessment and reporting.

Values Statement
- We value collaborative partnerships and believe that they build a strong foundation in developing a successful learning environment.

Vision Statement
We strive for enjoyment and excellence in learning by providing an environment that encourages confidence to explore and discover in the pursuit of life long learning.

- Specific curriculum approaches
  - Planning for the child is based on observations, parents questionnaires, daily informal chats and information about their child's strengths and abilities. Assessing & reporting to parents is a major focus and the backbone of our programming.
  
  An accredited SunSmart Centre through the Cancer Council of South Australia. The community is committed to the principals of sun safety.
  
  Updated our “Healthy Eating Policy” with parent, staff and local health services collaborating on this.
  
  The use of information technology is used where possible to enhance learning including an interactive whiteboard, ipads and weekly use of the school computer room. This occurs through multimodal learning experience that include audio, visual and interactive tools to promote literacy and numeracy. Each term a slide show set to music is shown to parents to reflect the term’s learning activities. Governing Council are presented with a visual slideshow Teacher’s Report each meeting. DVD's that have collated images of the child are available for children leaving kindergarten.

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
  - Regular shared curriculum activities (computing and activity time) with school classes help to ensure a smooth transition to school for the kindergarten children.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile
  - Director 0.5
  - Teacher 0.5

  Performance Management Program
  - Undertaken with all staff twice a year.

- Access to special support staff
  - Through DECD when required as well as Riverland Community Health.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  - The building was established in 1997 on the Monash Primary school site. The redevelopment of the outdoor learning environment is a focus of staff and governing council this year. A two tiered play platform was constructed
2002 and a shade cover was constructed in 2004. A large covered deck verandah allows for all year weather protection which gives staff greater flexibility and teaching options. This was insulated with fans installed in 2013.

The Kindergarten is a transportable building and in 2002 two split reverse cycled air-conditioners were installed.

In 2010 the amphitheatre was redeveloped.

Monash Kindergarten Playgroup were successful with Grant to replace the playground in 2012

Sustainability measures include a 3-bin recycling system introduced by council in 2013, a worm farm and 2 garden beds for growing veggies, fruit and flowers.

- Capacity (per session): 30 children
- Centre Ownership: DECD
- Access for children and staff with disabilities
  - The centre has good access for people with disabilities including ramps for building access and a disabled toilet area.

6. **Local Community (intended for country preschools)**

- General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments)
  - Monash is a small town situated in a rural fruit growing area of the Riverland in South Australia. There are relatively cheap building blocks available, allowing families the opportunity for a variety of horticultural pursuits or small business ventures. Through the fruit growing industry there is opportunity for seasonal/ casual work. A large number of families are grape growers or are involved in either the wine or juice industry. Our kindergarten community currently includes families with Greek, Punjabi and Phillipino origins.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
  - Parents at the kindergarten, primary school and in the local community are very supportive. Some of the families attending Monash Kindergarten live in Berri (a large town 9 kms away) and Barmera (also 9 kms away) and chose to attend this centre. The Monash Mammoth Market is a fundraising event that the school and kindergarten hold annually in May. It is very well received in both the local area and in the surrounding districts of the Riverland. The school and kindergarten work together and both benefit financially from this venture.
• Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
  : Most children attend Monash Primary School. Other feeder schools include: Glossop Primary school, Riverland Christian school, Our Lady of the River Catholic school.

• Other local care and educational facilities, eg child care, schools, OSHC
  : OSHC is available at Berri Primary school, or Barmera Primary school (both 9kms from Monash). The Berri Regional Child Care Centre is the closest facility for other childcare. Family Day Care is also available in Monash and the surrounding towns.

• Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  : Monash is situated in a fruit growing area with industry related to fruit ie wine, juicing and canning. Monash township has limited shopping facilities.

• Other local facilities, eg medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational
  : The Monash Adventure Playground is a tourist attraction that is located near the kindergarten and local primary school. The Monash Club has regular social and entertainment nights for local people to attend. The Riverland has a large number of sporting/recreational pursuits including water sports.
  The Riverland Regional Community Health Service is based in Berri with outreach services/centres in all large Riverland towns.

• Availability of staff housing
  : Government housing is available in the surrounding towns Berri and Barmera. Private rental housing is also available.

• Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality
  : Monash is located on the Sturt Highway (the major highway between Adelaide and Sydney. There are daily buses to Adelaide and Sydney. Berri has a taxi service, as well as a community bus service.

• Local Government body (name, phone number), availability of publications describing the local area (with source, cost), characteristics, level of involvement
  : Berri Barmera Council 19 Wilson Street Berri 8582 1922.

7. Further Comments

• Establishment of new services and/or programs
  : Continuing to implement intensive small group learning situations to meet the needs of children identified with specific learning difficulties, particularly physical and social skills.

• Partnership/incorporation arrangements with other groups
  : Monash kindergarten staff support High School work experience students and mature age students studying certificate 3 in child care through TAFE.