

# St James Park Kindergarten

## Preschool context Statement

Updated: 2023

**Centre number:** 4687

**Centre name:** St James Park Kindergarten

### 1. General information

- **Preschool Director:** Annika Neuwirth
- **Location address :** 19 Strathcona Avenue, Panorama SA 5041
- **Telephone number:** (08)8276 5703
- **Fax number:** (08) 8277 8680
- **E-mail address:** [dl.4687.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.4687.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)
- **Website:** [www.stjamesprkgn.sa.edu.au](http://www.stjamesprkgn.sa.edu.au)
- **Department Partnership:** Mitcham Plains Partnership
- **Geographical location:** 8kms south of the GPO in the council area of Mitcham
- **Enrolment/Attendance:**
  - Full Time Kindergarten offering 15 hours of preschool to children in their eligible year.
  - Centre capacity 30. Enrolment capacity 55.
- **Co-located/stand-alone:** Stand-alone site
- **Programs operating:**
  - Universal accessThe preschool offers 30 hours of preschool per fortnight.  
Families can choose their preferred group at registration.

#### **Blue Gum Group**

Mondays 8:30am-3:00pm

Tuesdays 8:30am-3:00pm

Alternate Fridays (odd weeks of the term) 11:00am-3:00pm

#### **Wattle Group**

Wednesdays 8:30am-3:00pm

Thursdays 8:30am-3:00pm

Alternate Fridays (even weeks of the term) 11:00am-3:00pm

- ❖ **Bilingual Support:** Available as provided by the Department for Education
- Preschool Support:** Available as provided by the Department for Education

- Playgroup is offered to all families with young children. Playgroup is available on Friday mornings from 9:00am-10:30am during the school term except for the last Friday of each term.

## 2. Philosophy

We value relationships, a strong sense of belonging and kindness. We provide a quality, welcoming and safe learning environment which fosters a sense of community and builds important parent and educator partnerships. We want our children to see themselves as active, powerful learners and develop a love of lifelong learning.

## 3. Curriculum

We plan and provide high quality learning experiences for children in their preschool year. We work in partnership with our families to provide a caring and challenging environment for children to reach their potential and develop a love of learning.

Our curriculum is guided by The Early Years Learning Framework: *Belonging, Being and Becoming*.

This Framework is built around five learning outcomes.

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world.
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators
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Throughout this program we will provide your children with:

- Interactions which promote learning, caring relationships and a positive self concept
- Time for active exploration and manipulation of the environment
- New and exciting challenges which foster children's learning
- A variety of high quality materials and resources
- Opportunities to follow their interests and be active researchers and constructors of knowledge
- Continuity of experiences and flexible routines
- Concrete, hands-on experiences for children to research, discover and build on prior knowledge

The educators at St James Park Kindergarten use an inquiry based approach to teaching and learning. We encourage children to be active learners, by asking questions, researching, investigation and co-constructing knowledge alongside their educators and peers.

We use the **Respect Reflect Relate (RRR)** tool to ensure a cycle of improvement and reflective practice. Staff recognise that parents are children's first educators and learning outcomes are best for children when staff and parents work in partnership to plan a curriculum based on children's strengths and interests.

The Centre has an open door policy where parents are invited to talk with staff about their child's progress at any time. In addition to informal conversations we also invite parents to attend a parent/educator chat during the preschool year. Here families and educators can share ideas and collaborate to create an ILP (Individual Learning Plan) for each child. Throughout the year, families are encouraged to attend our 'twilight community evenings' and 'open mornings' to engage with their child's learning. During your child's year at kindergarten we collect work samples, and take lots of photographs. These are then collated into a portfolio which you will receive at the end of your child's year at kindergarten. These are a wonderful record of your child's year at kindergarten. We also have a graduation where the children leaving for school are presented with their portfolios. A summative report is provided for you and your child's new school

#### 4. Centre Based Staff

Director - 1.0

Teacher - 1.0

ECW - 0.6

#### 5. Centre Facilities

- **Buildings and Grounds:** St James Park Kindergarten is in the leafy foothills of Adelaide. The centre is well maintained and has an established outside learning area with lots of shaded areas for the children to play. We are adjacent to Strathcona Reserve.
- **Centre Ownership:** Mitcham Council
- **Access for children and staff with disabilities:** Disabled access to the indoor space. The outdoor space has slopes and different levels accessible by steps, paved ramps and bridges

#### 6. Local Community

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool include-** Clapham Primary School, Colonel Light Gardens Primary School, St Therese Primary School and a range of other state and private schools.
- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:** Mitcham Shopping Centre, Pasadena Shopping Centre, Bedford Industries
- **Accessibility to Adelaide:** Lynton train station is within walking distance and there is a bus stop around the corner

#### 7. Further Comments

##### Key Priorities:

- Increase community engagement including knowledge of governing council and encourage membership
- Further develop relationships with local schools especially Clapham Primary School to foster continuity of learning and knowledge of our wider community
- Develop the centre's website
- Further enhancements to the outdoor learning space in consultation with the community with considerations given to sustainable practices, natural play environments and the inclusions of sensory experiences