



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 25/07/2018

Centre number: 4668

Centre name: Ardtornish Children's Centre

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Mrs Heather Fuss
- Postal address: 2 Roder Court, St Agnes SA 5097
- Location address: Enter via Saarinen Avenue, St Agnes, next to Ardtornish Primary School
- Department for Education Partnership: Modbury
- Geographical location – Tea Tree Gully Area
- Telephone number: (08) 8264 9828
- Fax number: (08) 8395 3601
- Preschool website address: <http://www.ardtornishcc.sa.edu.au/index.htm>
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.4668.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment

	<i>Term 1</i>	<i>Term 2</i>	<i>Term 3</i>	<i>Term 4</i>
<i>2013</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>53</i>		
<i>2014</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>85</i>
<i>2017</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>73</i>	

- Attendance %

	<i>Term 1</i>	<i>Term 2</i>	<i>Term 3</i>	<i>Term 4</i>
<i>2013</i>	<i>89.1</i>	<i>90.6</i>		
<i>2014</i>	<i>93.5</i>	<i>87.8</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>94</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>88.9</i>	<i>88.5</i>	<i>88.5</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>93.3</i>	<i>89.3</i>	<i>88.9</i>	<i>94.3</i>
<i>2017</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>84.6</i>	<i>79.8</i>	

- Co-located/stand-alone

We are a stand alone Children’s Centre, and we are adjacent to Ardtornish Primary School. This is our main “feeder” school.

- Programs operating at the preschool

- ⊞ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children- The Centre is full time offering children full day sessions from 8:15am-3:45pm on either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday

- ⊞ Occasional Care – two sessions for 0-2 year olds are available on Wednesday and Thursday morning from 8:30-11:30am during school term. Four sessions for 2-4 year olds are available Monday-Thursday from 8:30-11:30am. The program is funded.

- ⊞ Associated Programs – including baby playgroup, various parenting programs and seminars including Circle of Security; please see termly program for more information. Community Development Coordinator and Family Services Coordinator provide a range of supports to families and community.

- ⊞ Bilingual Support- Applied for when needed.

- ⊞ Preschool Support- Department support services referrals submitted with consultation of families. Early intervention support is also provided by the Centre. Referral pathways can also be arranged through the Centre connecting families with other local services.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose

Vision

Our local communities understand the fundamental importance of early childhood and the work of parents and children are acknowledged as equally important citizens in their communities.

What We Do (Mission)

The Ardtornish Children's Centre works in partnership with local government and non-government services, families and the community to advocate for and support the rights, health, learning and wellbeing of all children through high quality and accountable education, parenting and child development services.

We Believe (Philosophy)

All children are competent and capable from birth with the capacity to learn, play and form relationships with others and their environments.

Our 2018 improvement priorities are Childrens Learning and Development, Protective Practices, Family and Community Engagement and Cultural Competence. We are engaging in the EChO Reimagining Childhood Project.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework

- Core Values

Respect, Responsibility, Care and Trust.

All team members engage in team meetings by critically reflecting on our data and practices to support learning and program design. In consultation with children and families we develop a learning plan for each child that includes possible lines of development which are utilised to design the active learning environment including authentic learning experiences.

- Specific curriculum approaches

The Centre utilises an inquiry approach to learning. We respond to children's and families' interests and wonderings by implementing strengths based programs and practices. We have a pedagogy of interaction and environment with a strong focus on dispositions, literacy and numeracy. We are inspired by nature and our local community and view children as active citizens.

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
The director engages in partnership meetings and local early years network groups in joint improvement design and implementation.

The Centre collaborates with Ardtornish Primary School to ensure continuity of learning and positive outcomes for children during transition to school.

4. Centre Based Staff

Staff Profile

- 1.0 Director
 - 1.7 Teacher (includes universal access)
 - Additional 0.9 Teacher
 - 2.4 ECW (.5 ECW2) allocation in the Kindy (includes universal access)
 - 0.5 ECW administration
 - 1.0 Community development coordinator
 - 0.8 Family services coordinator
 - Occasional Care ECW over 2- 4 sessions per week
 - Occasional Care ECW under 2- 2 sessions per week
 - Governing council employs cleaner and gardener
- Performance Management Program
The director reports to the Education Director for Modbury Partnership and the Centre Staff meet with the director formally three times a year to plan for improvement and reflect on practice. The Centre also engages in extensive whole of Centre reflective practice through our team meeting structure and pupil free days. Alongside the wellbeing of children and families, staff wellbeing is a high priority. The Centre team engage in team building and team wellbeing initiatives including professional development opportunities (where appropriate and where capacity allows professional development facilitated by the Centre is offered to and shared across our partnership). There are strong support structures for new staff.

- Access to special support staff
Preschool Support and Bilingual Support are applied for to suit the learning of individual children. The Centre has a Family Services and Community development program. These programs offer families and their children a range of referral and support pathways.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
The Centre opened in Term 2 2014 and incorporated the existing John Francis Clark Memorial Kindergarten. We are inspired by nature and the principles of Reggio Emilia. The Facility has 2 consult rooms and a community space in addition to the Kindy and Care facilities. Our outdoor learning environment includes edible gardens, free range chickens and designated outdoor space for community programs.
- Capacity (per session)
44 reschool, 8 Occassional Care over 2 and 4 Occassional Care Under 2
- Centre Ownership: Department for Education

Access for children and staff with disabilities

The Centre has been designed with wheelchair access in mind. Visitors accessing the Centre who require car parking need to contact the Centre prior to visits. The Kindy space is fitted with sound field equipment to assist hearing impaired children. The Centre welcomes and supports all families. Health Care plans are required for children and staff with additional health care needs to ensure that the Centre is able to provide the best possible care and support.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics:
Our local community is increasingly diverse. Many of our children and families speak more than one language. We work with Ardtornish Primary school to provide transition and continuity of learning. The School supports us to access their library and outdoor learning spaces.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
The Centre has a small but active governing council that meets twice per term to provide input and oversight to improvement priorities, policy development, facilities maintenance and purchase priorities.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
Ardtornish Primary School, Torrens Valley Christian School and St Davids
- Other local care and educational facilities,
On the school grounds is a playgroup building where a parent run playgroup affiliated with Playgroup SA is operated. The Centre provides support to the playgroup for promotions.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
There are local shopping and business areas within walking distance. The Centre is approximately 1 km from Tea Tree Plaza, The Modbury Hospital and the TAFE at Tea Tree Gully. The bus interchange at Tea Tree Plaza is less than 1 km away and there is a local bus depot within walking distance. The Kindy utilises the council Library and visits with the residents at Bene, a local aged care facility.
- Accessibility
Close to Obhan, Tea Tree bus terminal. On bus routes to Tea Tree Plaza and the city.
- Local Government
Tea Tree Gully Council

7. Further Comments

- Partnership arrangements with other groups
The Children Centre has ongoing partnerships with CAFHS, Northern Adelaide Midwifery, Uniting Care Wesley Bowden and Family Day Care.