



PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated: 4/02/2025

Centre number: **4668**

Centre name: **Ardtornish Children's Centre**

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Heather Fuss
- Postal address: 2 Roder Court Saint 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
- Preschool website address: <https://ardtornishcc.sa.edu.au/>
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.4668.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance
[Include both enrolment and attendance numbers for the past 5 years.]
- Co-located/stand-alone: We are co-located with 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 9:00am-3:00pm on either Monday, Tuesday and alternate Wednesday or Thursday, Friday and alternate Wednesday.

- Occasional Care- one sessions for 0–2-year-olds is available on Thursday morning from 8:30-11:30am during school term. Five sessions for 2–4-year-olds are available Monday-Thursday from 8:30-11:30am and Wednesday from 12:00-3:00 during school term. The program is funded.
- Associated Programs- including playgroups, various parenting programs and seminars; please see termly program for more information.
- 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

- Statement of Philosophy
- Behaviour, interactions, and guidance code
- Complaints Procedure
- Emergency Management Plan
- Healthy Fodd Policy
- Safe Transportation Procedure
- Sleep and Rest Proceedure
- Sun Protection Policy
- Water Safety Policy

3. Curriculum

- Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework
- Core Values
Care, Fair, Problem Solving
- Specific curriculum approaches
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, STEAM and self regulation. We are inspired by nature, the arts and our local community and view children as active citizens. We implement the Child protection curriculum. The children visit the local creek environment, and the Centre holds regular cycle days.
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
The director engages in portfolio meetings, children’s centre leader’s forums and local early years leaders network group in joint improvement design and

implementation. The Centre engages with the backyard bird count and local community projects such as early years art show.

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
 - 2.4 Teacher
 - 0.5 ECW administration
 - Occasional Care ECW over 2 5 sessions per week
 - Occasional Care under 2, 1 session per week
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- 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.

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, nature play space and designated outdoor space for community programs.

- Capacity (per session)
44 preschool, 8 Occasional Care over 2 and 4 Occasional 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.
- 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
- 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.

- **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, Early Years OT, GP Shared Care and Learning Together.