PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 6528
Centre name: Millicent North Kindergarten

1. General information
   - Preschool Director: Olivia Nelson
   - Postal address: P.O Box 311 Millicent 5280
   - Location address: 18 Ridge Tce Millicent 5280
   - DECD Region: Limestone Coast
   - Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 405 from Adelaide
   - Telephone number: 08)87333448
   - Fax number: 87334012
   - Preschool website address: http://www.millicentkgn.sa.edu.au
   - Preschool e-mail address: olivia.nelson651@schools.sa.edu.au
   - Enrolment/Attendance:

     T2 2013 enrolments: 36   T2 2013 attendances: 32
     T1 2014 projected enrolments: 46
• Co-located/stand-alone: Stand alone full time centre

• Programs operating at the preschool
   Pre Entry: Available to children the term before they begin full time kindergarten. Pre-entry is integrated into sessions.

   Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children: Children are eligible to attend kindergarten for 15 hours a week. The centre is open from Mondays to Thursdays.

   Lunch/Full Day Program: Lunch care is available for children who attend full days.

   Preschool Support: Available for children who need additional support.

   Bus Service: For children who live 5kms or more away.

   Playgroup: Operates at the kindergarten on Fridays from 10:30am – 12:00pm.

2. Key Centre Policies

We value:
• Relationships
• Respect
• Commitment

At Millicent North Kindergarten we acknowledge the family as a child’s first educator and we value and encourage family input into all aspects of the kindergarten. We strive to build positive working partnerships with families built on mutual respect to support each child’s wellbeing, learning and development.

We strive to develop strong links in the local community to connect children and their families to community resources, to strengthen children’s learning outcomes and to make positive contributions to the local community.

We believe that relationships are paramount and that children learn best when they feel safe, secure, included, valued and supported by educators to take risks, explore the learning environment and to be successful. Educators at Millicent North Kindergarten will endeavour to create warm, nurturing, respectful and caring relationships with each child to help children develop a strong sense of wellbeing.
We believe that children learn best through play. Through play children learn about themselves, their environment, people and the world around them. We view all children as competent and capable learners who come to kindergarten with a wealth of knowledge, ideas and skills. Children’s ideas, interests and opinions are respected and implemented as part of the curriculum.

We aim to foster in children respect for themselves, others and the environment through sustainable practises.

At Millicent North Kindergarten educators are committed to providing a high quality learning environment where children feel safe, secure and supported to be successful learners as they learn through play experiences driven by their own interests.

Centre Priorities:

- Strengthening literacy and numeracy concepts
- Positive wellbeing
- Sustainability and helping children connect with nature by developing natural play spaces in the outdoor learning environment.
- Transition to school programs.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used:
The kindergarten uses the Early Years Learning Framework. This framework consists of a number of principals, practises and learning outcomes. Fundamental to this framework is a view that children’s lives are characterised by belonging, being and becoming.

- Core Values:
Relationships, Respect and Commitment

- Specific curriculum approaches:
The kindergarten uses the ‘Floorbook Approach to Planning and Documentation.’ This approach allows the emergent curriculum to be based around children’s prior knowledge and interests. It is a project approach that supports children to deepen their knowledge and understanding on topics of interest in groups.

To increase literacy skills the kindergarten uses the ‘Book Making,’ approach.
4. **Centre Based Staff**

- **Staff Profile:**
  1.0 full time Director
  1.0 full time teacher
  0.1 finance officer who uses EDSAS linked with the North Primary School
  Preschool support workers are employed on a needs basis

- **Performance Management Program:** Both full time staff have personal performance plans which are regularly reviewed. We value professional development and engage in regular training and development.

- **Access to special support staff:** We have access to specialists such as a speech pathologist, a disability coordinator, behaviour support and a psychologist through DECD. We often work with specialists from Community Health also.

5. **Centre Facilities**

- **Buildings and grounds:** The kindergarten consists of one large play room, a library, kitchen, office, bathroom and two store rooms. There is a verandah area and an extension to the verandah area providing lots of undercover space outdoors. The outdoor learning area is large with many differing levels and play areas. The outdoor learning area is exceptional with a medium sized shed to store equipment and a chook house.

- **Capacity (per session):** 42

- **Centre Ownership:** DECD

- **Access for children and staff with disabilities:** is available
6. **Local Community** (intended for country preschools)

- **General characteristics:** Millicent is a small country town with a population of approximately 5,000. The majority of the community are Anglo Saxon and come from a diverse range of socio-economic backgrounds. The local industries include pulp and paper manufacturing at Kimberly-Clark 10 kms south-east of Millicent employs many people from the town.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool:** Parents are encouraged to join the kindergarten’s Governing Council to support management and operational decisions, including fundraising activities. Playgroup is run by the parents. Working bees are held at the end of each term. The kindergarten has developed links with a wide range of services. The kindergarten participates in weekly visits to the Millicent Library and Resource Centre. The kindergarten has alternate visits to and from the local child care centre, Gladys Smith Early Learning Centre, and we share bonds with Millicent High School.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:** Millicent North Primary School and St Anthony’s Catholic School.

- **Other local care and educational facilities:** One local child care centre, two public primary schools, one Catholic primary school, one high school and one other kindergarten situated at the other end of town.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:** Woolworths and two smaller grocery stores. Three local pubs and one Community Club. Larger shopping facilities are located 51km away in Mt Gambier.

- **Other local facilities:** Council office; health and dental care, hospital and emergency outpatient service; library; bakeries; sporting facilities including two local gyms; swimming lake; lake McIntyre has a walkway and bird look outs and a wet lands area with barbecue facilities; information centre; tafe; civics and arts centre; playground with a barbecue area and skate board park which is across the road from our kindergarten.

- **Availability of staff housing:** There are some Government Employee housing, housing trust housing and a range of private rentals through the local real estate agents Millicent Real Estate and Malseeds.

- **Accessibility:** Commercial buses to and from Adelaide daily, a plane service to Adelaide from Mt Gambier and there are two routes by road to Adelaide either inland or via the coast (Coorong).
• Local Government: Wattle Range Council, there is a council office across the road from the kindergarten next to the library, phone number 87330900.

7. Further Comments

• Partnership arrangements with other groups:
  - Millicent show Society, once a year all the schools and kindergartens support the Millicent show by displaying a designated area in the show hall.
  - Local library contact the kindergarten for special occasions or visitors to the area so that the kindergarten can participate in local activities. The kindergarten is in short walking distance to the library and other facilities such as the Domain Playground and Skate park and close vicinity to town shopping centre.
  - Local businesses support our fundraising events such as our Annual Shopping Spree.