

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT Updated: 12/5/2022

Centre number: 3624

Centre name: Darlington Children's Centre for early childhood development and parenting.

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Mr David Coulter
- Postal address: 12A Kurrajong Place, Seacombe Gardens 5047
- Location address: as above.
- DECS Partnership: Marion Coast
- Geographical location –15 kms from the GPO
- Telephone number: 8296 2686
- Fax number: 8377 1569
- Preschool website address: <http://www.darlingtoncc.sa.edu.au/>
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.3624.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au

Enrolment/Attendance:

- Enrolments has been variable during the past 3 years in line with state wide population trends. In 2022 there are 48 eligible children though attendance is below the State average. The preschool enrolments reflect the diverse cultural background of the community with many families speaking more than one language. The attendance is influenced by a range of factors including families who are students at Flinders University who return to their home countries at the end of the academic year.
- Co-located/stand-alone: Darlington Children's Centre adjoins Darlington Primary School. The Darlington Children's Centre provides a range of Early Childhood Education & Care services for children 0 years to 6 years and their families. The Centre also provides a range of community and allied health supported programs through the preschool and community centre. These include, a speech pathologist, occupational therapist, supported targeted and general community playgroups, parenting and child programs provided by the Centre staff and partner agencies and Cafhs. For details see <https://www.darlingtoncc.sa.edu.au/information-resources/>
- Programs operating at the Centre include:
 - sessional preschool for eligible children – up to 15 hours per week.
 - children can access ½ day sessions or full day preschool up to 15 hours per week.
 - occasional care (funded): There are currently 5 over two year olds sessions per week – Tuesday to Friday mornings and Thursday afternoon. An under 2 year old program on Friday morning.
 - pre – entry and early entry to preschool may be available in terms 3-4 subject to capacity

- preschool support programming for children that have been identified/verified as having additional needs that may need support.
- bi-lingual program for children to support preschool children with English as a second language. These children including new arrivals to Australia and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- Six supported playgroups for all families and targeted groups
- baby and early walker playgroup supported by the site speech pathologist and occupational therapist
- multicultural women's groups
- facilities for supervised family access visits
- coffee and chat
- parent initiated programs as needed
- Circle of Security parent program
- Speech pathologist (part time) on site to support staff, provide 1-1 and parent support programs and children's group programs
- Occupational therapist (part time) on site to support staff, provide 1-1 and parent support programs and children's group programs
- Community Development Coordinators assist the Children's Centres to provide and coordinate services that build on what already exists, are flexible and locally tailored, and engage families.

2. Key Centre Policies

- DfE policies - intranet
<https://edi.sa.edu.au/the-department/policies/departmental-policies-a-z>
- Centre specific policies

3. Curriculum

- Early Years Learning Framework
This document is designed to extend and enrich children's learning from birth to five years and through the transition to school. The Framework forms the foundation for ensuring that children in all early childhood education and care settings experience quality teaching and learning. It has a specific emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development.

A copy can be found at https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-02/belonging_being_and_becoming_the_early_years_learning_framework_for_australia.pdf
- Respect Reflect Relate. The three R's (*Reflect Respect Relate*) provide a reference point for reflective practice and for respectful connections and relationships between educators, families and children for improved learning outcomes for all children.
- Keeping safe: child protection curriculum teaches all children from a young age in an appropriate way to
 - Recognise abuse and tell a trusted adult about it
 - Understand what is appropriate and inappropriate touching
 - Understand ways of keeping themselves safe

4. Centre Based Staff

Staff Profile

- Director
- Preschool Teacher/s
- Universal Access funded teacher/ECW
- Early Childhood Worker (ECW)
- Preschool Support ECW – based on child enrolments
- Bi-lingual Support ECW - based on child enrolments
- Occasional Care ECE Level 2
- Occasional Care ECE Level 1
- Community Development Coordinator
- Administration Officer
- Speech pathologist
- Occupation therapist

Performance Development

- Performance and Development planning at Darlington Children's Centre is a cycle of individual performance planning, professional learning and performance review that supports individual performance improvement.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and Grounds.

A solid brick purpose built preschool which is well maintained and resources with an extensive, shady outdoor learning environment. Built in 1980, but celebrated its 50th year in servicing the Darlington community in 2004.

The site celebrates its daily connection to Kurna and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories. Which is displayed as an extensive outdoor landscape mural that spans a large expanse of the fencing? The Artist largely responsible was 'Auntie Merle Coleman' who has been an ongoing Aboriginal Elder within our community.

- The Centre has a community building (2015) that stands alongside the preschool building providing space for community and family programs.
- The preschool capacity is 47 children
- This is a Department of Education and Child Development owned site. The part of the outdoor learning environment is on a long term lease from the City of Marion.

6. Local Community

General Characteristics

- Families who attend our preschool, occasional care, family and community programs are from diverse linguistic / cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. There are a large percentage of families from a language other than English background.

- The Centre has a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolments.
- There has been 'Urban Regeneration of Local Housing' which has resulted in many new young families relocating to the Seacombe Gardens/ Dover Gardens/ Darlington/ Bedford Park/ Sturt and Marion areas. Public housing is provided by SA Housing Trust.
- The majority of children 'transition' to Darlington Primary and to Stella Maris Parish School. Both of these schools are located next to the Kindergarten.
- There are a number of local child care centres – Goodstart, Goldilocks CCC, Diagonal Road Community CCC, Sturt Road CCC, Flinders University CCC, Science Park CCC.
- Darlington Children's Centre is a member of the Marion Coast Partnership with Seaview Kindergarten, Seaview HS, Darlington PS, Seaview Downs Primary, Seacliff PS, Trott Park Kindergarten, Woodend Children's Centre, Woodend PS, Sheidow Park PS, Hallett Cove East PS, Hallett Cove Kindergarten and Hallett Cove R-12 School.
- Locally; the centre is very close to Westfield Shopping Complex, Flinders Medical Centre, Flinders University and the Marion Cultural Complex & the State Aquatic Centre.
- Accessibility to Darlington Children's Centre is within easy walking from the area. Public transport/ Buses are available from Seacombe Road, Miller Street and Morphett Road. There is a major Public Transport Hub at the Westfield Marion with links to the City, Glenelg and Blackwood.
- The Darlington Children's Centre is located within the City of Marion.