

2023 annual report to the Community

Darlington Children's Centre

Darlington Children's Centre number: 3624
 Partnership: Marion Coast



Preschool director:

Kim Cook

Date of endorsement:

08/02/2024



Context Statement

Darlington Kindergarten, established in 1980, underwent significant development in 2015 with the construction of a new community building. Within our community-oriented facilities, we have incorporated allied health services, including speech pathology and occupational therapy, to aid families and cater to children aged 0 to 3 years. Our offerings encompass various playgroups and informative parenting courses such as the Circle of Security program. Additionally, we host a weekly visit from a CAFHS (Child and Family Health Service) nurse, providing essential health check-ups for the well-being of our attendees. Darlington Kindergarten is conveniently co-located on the same premises as Darlington Primary School, allowing for a seamless connection between early childhood education and primary schooling. We place significant emphasis on collaborating closely with Darlington Primary School to ensure a smooth transition for children, fostering continuity of care and providing comprehensive support throughout their educational journey. This close partnership enables us to create a supportive and nurturing environment, ensuring that children experience a cohesive and supportive transition from kindergarten to primary school.

Our site embraces diversity, representing a multitude of cultures and languages with families hailing from various backgrounds, many of whom come from overseas to access Flinders University. At our Children's Centre we cater to children accessing the 3-year-old Kindergarten, offering flexible start times, including mid-year and January commencement based on their birth month and year.

Within our inclusive learning environment, we accommodate up to 45 children, inclusive of occasional care attendees. Our teacher-to-child ratio stands at 1:11 for Kindergarten, supported by two dedicated Early Childhood trained teachers on-site daily. To maintain required ratios, we supplement our team with qualified Early Childhood Workers as needed. For children who have no English when arriving we can secure funding for bilingual support workers. These professionals bridge the gap between home languages and English, aiding children during their transition and daily routines, particularly crucial for those who are non-English speakers. We actively engage with the Department for Education to ensure adequate resources for children requiring additional support, be it in speech and language development or specialised assistance to achieve their learning goals.

Additionally, we extend our services by offering five sessions of occasional care tailored for children who do not access other care sites. This unique offering is seamlessly integrated within our Kindergarten space, providing a comprehensive and inclusive educational experience for all children in our care.

Preschool Attendance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2020 centre	80.3%		78.5%	85.8%
2021 centre	83.5%	74%	82.4%	79.1%
2022 centre	68.6%	72.6%	80%	77.1%
2023 centre	86.4%	77.8%	78.4%	81.2%
2020 state	89.1%		84.6%	85.8%
2021 state	87.3%	85.3%	87.1%	84.5%
2022 state	83.6%	77.6%	77.9%	77.8%
2023 state	85.4%	82.9%	83.4%	81.4%

Based on attendances recorded in the two-week reference period each term. Data for eligible enrolments as described in the department's Enrolment policy. Attendance rates may differ to previous reporting with the transfer from calculations based on deemed attendance to actual attendance using booked hours divided by attended hours. Data Source: Department for Education Attendance Data, Semester 1 Report 2023. A blank cell indicates there were no students enrolled.

Note: Term 2 2020 data may not be available for all preschools.

Attendance Comment

In South Australia, preschool attendance is not compulsory, but it is strongly encouraged. Preschool gives children the best opportunity to develop skills, which prepare them for school. These benefits include establishing positive routines and habits, friendships and connections as well as developing communication, problem-solving and creative skills. All children are entitled to access a preschool program over 4 terms the year before they start school.

Governing Council report

Introduction: The Governing Council of Darlington Children's Centre is pleased to present its annual report for the year 2024. This report encapsulates the achievements, initiatives, and collaborative endeavours undertaken by the council and its dedicated members throughout the year.

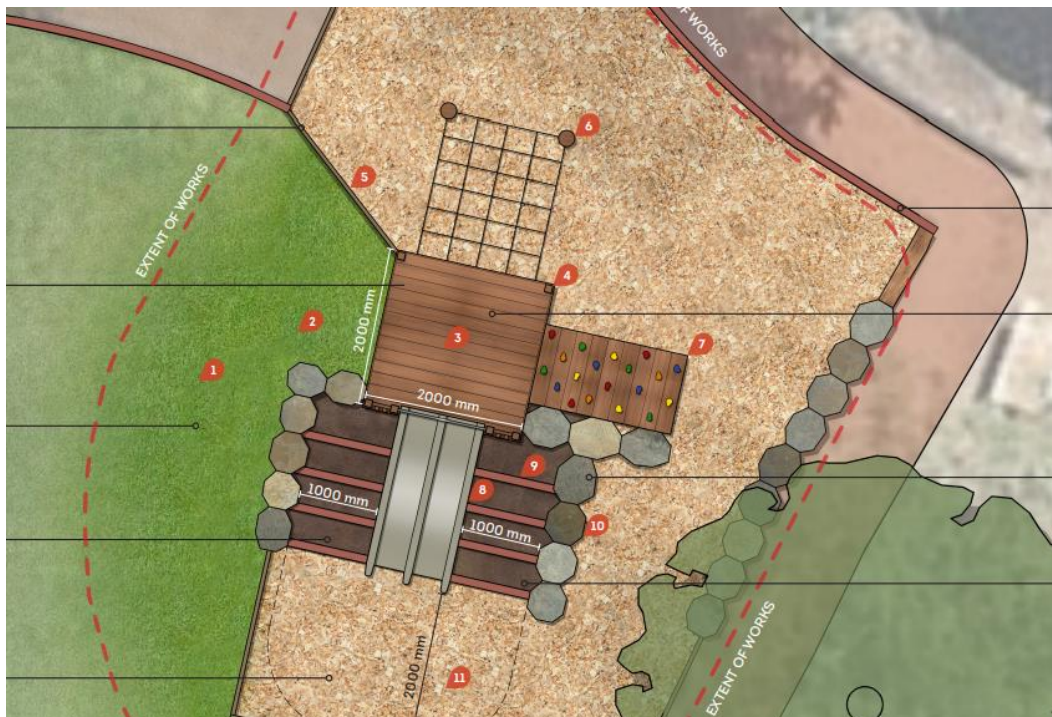
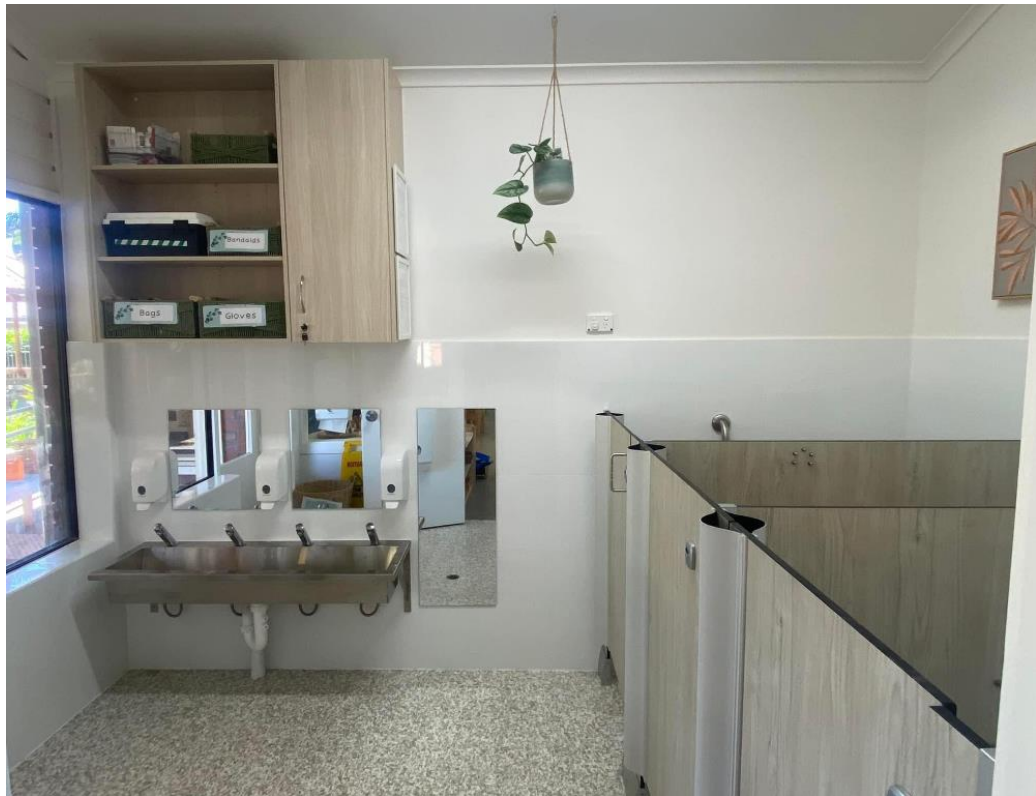
Fundraising Initiatives: In response to the collective enthusiasm and commitment of our members, the Governing Council initiated a series of fundraising ideas aimed at enhancing the facilities of Darlington Children's Centre. Some of our fundraising included the sale of jolly socks, a pie drive, Easter hot cross buns, and a Christmas raffle. While some fundraising was more successful financially others provided valuable insights for what we may not do in the future. Nevertheless, through the unwavering support of our community, we achieved our fundraising target, accumulating \$2144.71.

Facility Improvements: A significant portion of the funds raised was allocated towards the purchasing of new climbing frames for our occasional care, playgroup, and Kindergarten programs. In a bid to engage families, these frames were purchased in advance, allowing families to see where their money was going. Additionally, the Governing Council spearheaded the redevelopment of our children's bathroom facilities which came from feedback from the staffing team. The staff team was able to make choices about colours and designs and the bathroom project was finished in January 2024 ready for the new year. Furthermore, the council collaborated closely with educators to redevelop the slide space. The council was part of overseeing the plans, giving their thoughts and ideas and approving this project to commence in April 2024.

Acknowledgments: The Governing Council extends its heartfelt appreciation to all members for their tireless dedication, innovative ideas, and unwavering commitment to Darlington Children's Centre's mission. Special recognition is also extended to our staff representative, Vicki who volunteered her time and shared her thoughts and ideas.

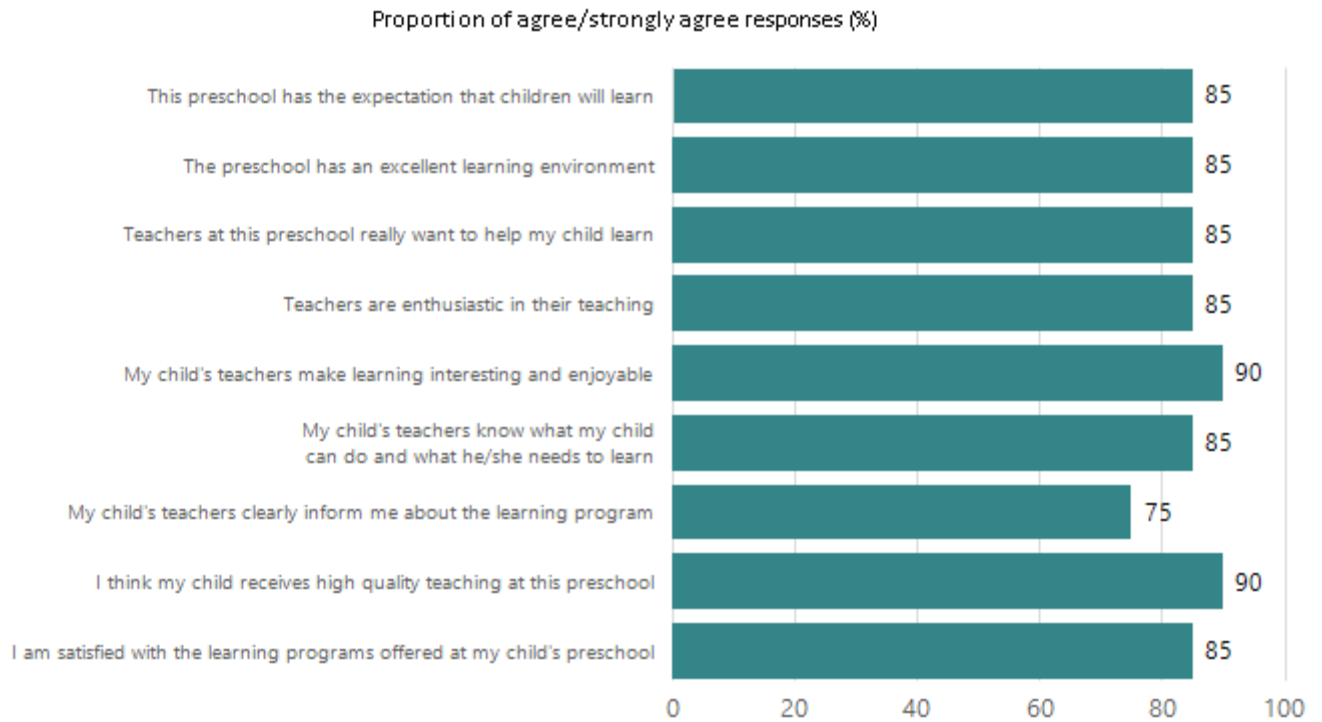
Conclusion: In summary, the year 2024 has been marked by significant accomplishments and collective achievements for the Governing Council of Darlington Children's Centre. Through proactive fundraising initiatives

and strategic facility enhancements, we have demonstrated our dedication to enriching the educational experience and facilities for our community. As we look ahead we look forward to new members joining our council to bring new ideas, expertise and options in how to make Darlington Children's centre an inclusive, supportive and fabulous place to work, play and learn at.



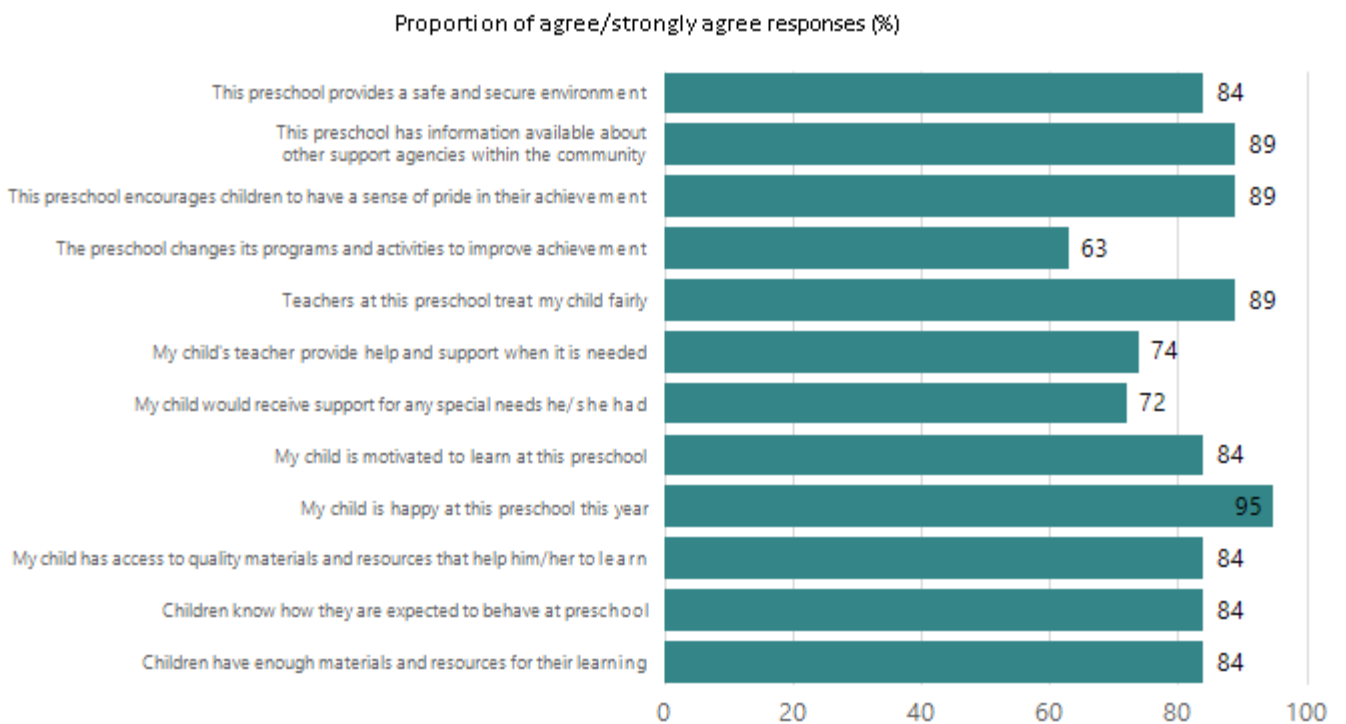
Preschool Family Opinion Survey

Quality of Teaching and Learning



Data Source: 2023 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2023.

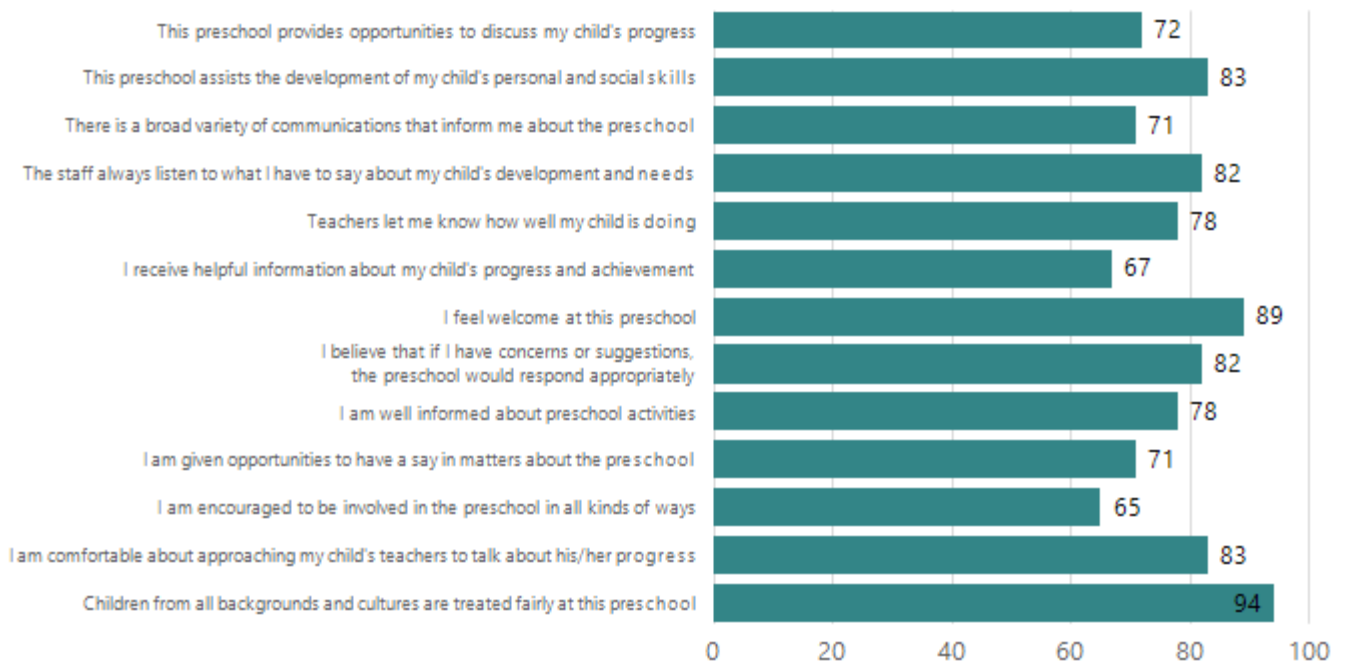
Support of Learning



Data Source: 2023 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2023.

Relationships and Communication

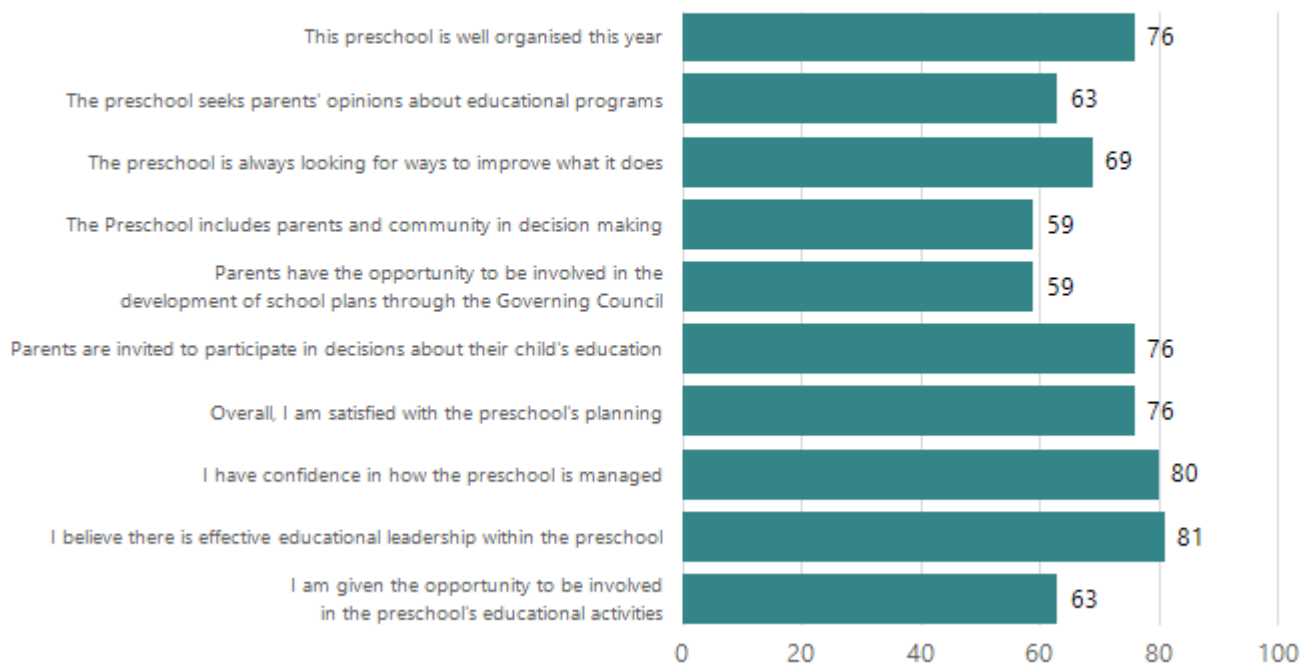
Proportion of agree/strongly agree responses (%)



Data Source: 2023 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2023.

Leadership and Decision Making

Proportion of agree/strongly agree responses (%)



Data Source: 2023 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2023.

Destination Schools

Feeder Schools (Site number - Name)	2021	2022	2023
0666 - Darlington Primary School	25.0%	8.0%	7.7%
0913 - Seacliff Primary School	6.3%		0%
0984 - Seaview Downs Primary School			3.1%
9074 - Stella Maris Parish School		4.0%	6.2%
9999 - Unknown	64.6%	88.0%	78.5%

Note: The data is collected in term 3. It does not reflect actual schools enrolled in by existing preschool children. A blank cell indicates there was no data for students enrolled.

Data Source: Department for Education Destination Data Report, 2023.

Highest Qualifications held by the teaching workforce and workforce composition

All teachers at this school are qualified and registered with the SA Teachers Registration Board.

Qualification Level	Number of Qualifications
Bachelor's degrees or Diplomas	4

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collections as on the last pay date of June 2023. As self-reported by staff in the system.

Please note: Data includes staff who are Actively employed and on extended paid leave. Please note only the highest qualification of the Teaching staff is reported. Excludes any number of other certifications earned.

Workforce composition including indigenous staff

	Teaching Staff		Non-Teaching Staff	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Full-Time Equivalents	0.0	3.4	0.0	3.6
Persons	0.0	4.0	0.0	7.0

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collection as on the last pay date of June 2023.

Please note: Data includes staff who are actively employed and on extended paid leave. "Indigenous category" is self-reported by staff in the system.

Financial Statement

Funding Source	Amount
Grants: State	3800.00
Grants: Commonwealth	-
Parent Contributions	28973.50
Fund Raising	2144.71
Other	

Data Source: School supplied data.