PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 6646

Centre name: Roxby Downs Kindergarten

1. General information

- Centre name: Roxby Downs Kindergarten
- Centre number: 6646
- Preschool Director: Kerryn Jones
- Postal address: P.O Box 162, Roxby Downs, SA, 5725
- Location address: Richardson Place, Roxby Downs, SA, 5725
- Telephone number: 08 8671 0455
- Fax number: 08 8671 1021
- E-mail address: kindy.director@roxbykgn.sa.edu.au
- DECS District: Far North and Aboriginal Lands Region
- Geographical location – i.e. road distance from GPO (km): 560 km (Olympic Dam – Adelaide)
- Enrolment/Attendance: Term 1, 2012, 91 eligible enrolments; 29 pre-entry enrolments
  Term 2, 2012 96 eligible enrolments
- Co-located/stand-alone: stand-alone
- Programs operating: Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
  Operates Monday – Friday. We have 2 kindergarten groups – Red (Grupo Roso) and Blue (Grupo Azul). Grupo Azul attend on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8.30-3 and every second Friday from 8.30-12.30.
Grupo Roso attend on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8.30-3 and every other Friday from 8.30-12.30.

- Lunch/Full Day Program
  - Monday - Thursday
- Bilingual Support
  - Support is available for children from Non English Speaking backgrounds through the Preschool Bilingual Support programme.
- Preschool Support
  - Preschool Support / Early Intervention hours are provided on a needs basis, funded through the Preschool Support program and our Site Global budget. Negotiated Education Plans, where required, are established in collaboration with parents, centre staff, the DECD K-12 Disabilities Coordinator & other relevant agencies.

2. Key Centre Policies

- Centre Priorities/Statement of Purpose
- Working toward the National Quality Standard: Developing a Quality Improvement Plan; focus areas for 2012 are Educational Programme and Practice, Staffing Arrangements, Physical Environment.
- Improving children’s literacy through a focus on oral language: specifically children’s narrative skills, vocabulary & sentence grammar.
- Preparing for Same First Day at Preschool: rethinking enrolment procedures, curriculum, assessment and transition.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used - Belonging, Being & Becoming: the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia
  - Belonging, Being and Becoming is the national early learning framework for children from birth to five years. The framework outlines principles and practices that underpin the kindergarten’s philosophy and educational pedagogy. Through the framework’s themes of belonging, being and becoming and the five learning goals, our staff work alongside children in developing: a strong sense of their identity and wellbeing, connections with and contributions to their world, confidence and involvement in their learning; and effective communication skills.

At Roxby Downs Kindergarten we honour the importance of each child’s belonging, being and becoming. We honour the importance of:

**Belonging** within a family, community and culture
**Being** 4 years old

**Becoming** a confident learner and contributor to Australian society.

We report on the children’s individual learning through an end of year ‘Summative Report’ that highlights individual achievement towards meeting the EYLF learning outcomes as well as Site Plan targets.

- **Core Values**
  - At Roxby Downs Kindergarten, we proudly support Froebel’s vision of a ‘children’s garden’ – a safe place for children to learn about themselves, others and the world, and where learning can be fun, meaningful, exciting and engaging.

- **Specific curriculum approaches**
  - Play based pedagogy is used where children learn through meaningful opportunities to play and engage with high quality materials, skilled staff, and other children.
  - Curriculum is based upon individual children’s strengths, abilities, interests and challenges.
  - Learning Stories are used to document children’s learning, dispositions, and to contribute to the planning and assessment of curriculum.
  - Key curriculum questions to be explored with the children are also used as a source of curriculum and provocations for learning are designed for both individuals and groups of children.

- **Joint programmes/special curriculum projects**
  - The kindergarten has a Spanish Language Programme where children are introduced to the Spanish language through everyday conversation and meaningful learning experiences. The Spanish language programme continues through at the Roxby Downs Area School.
  - We support ‘transition visits’ with 2 feeder schools, namely the Roxby Downs Area School and St Barbara’s Catholic School in the last part of each term.
  - In conjunction with the community library, we offer fortnightly library visits for all children.
  - iPADs are used by all staff members to document children’s learning through learning stories. Children are also able to access the iPADs during each session. This is a site-funded curriculum project where we work closely with the Andamooka School.

4. **Centre Based Staff**

- **Staff Profile**
  - PSD1 Director, permanent 1.0
  - Teacher, permanent 1.0, contract .5.
  - ECW 1, 2 (shared between permanent & contract workers)
• 3 Preschool Support workers
• 1 Bilingual worker
• 1 Finance Officer (4hrs/week)
• 1 Spanish worker (funded by the kindergarten)
  (In total we have 10 staff members working at our site)

- Performance and Development Programme
  : Performance and development meetings occur with each staff member on an annual basis. A strengths-based approach is used where key learning/improvement areas are negotiated, support provided, and progress reviewed at the end of the year.

- Access to special support staff
  : We have access to a range of special support staff e.g. DECD K-12 Disabilities Services, Occupational Therapists – (Pt Augusta Health Team outreach service), as well as other agencies i.e. Roxby Downs Health Service, Disabilities S.A, Autism assoc. to name a few.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  : Our main building (established in 1988) is constructed of double brick and is called the Gran Salon. It is situated in the main street of Roxby Downs, in close physical proximity to other educational facilities. El Estudio, which faces directly onto our yard, is a much newer facility. The grounds also include a grassed area, sandpit, 2 main storage shed & shaded areas for our hot climate. We have a highly successful vegetable garden, and a large play platform made to specification.

- Capacity (per session)
  : The current capacity stands as: 45 children in the Gran Salon; 15 children in El Estudio.

- Centre Ownership
  : The Gran Salon is owned by the Minister of Works. El Estudio is owned by the Municipal Council of Roxby Downs.

- Access for children and staff with disabilities
  : Our buildings are readily accessible via wide gates, flat surfaces, ramps & double entrance doors.
6. **Local Community** (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments)
  
  Roxby Downs is a remote mining community. The community is predominantly employed by BHPB & other contract firms and local government/retail. The population is a transient one with a proportion of the community from interstate. Over 40 different cultures are represented in the town and an increasing number of families, speak English as a second language, or have an Indigenous background. Local developments include a Cultural/Leisure Precinct incorporating a Visitors Information Centre, Dunes Café, Theatrette, Gymnasium etc. The Olympic Dam mine is nearing expansion which will significantly impact upon the town and the kindergarten itself.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
  
  We have an enthusiastic Governing Council who meet regularly and plan events for family and community to engage with the kindergarten. In Term 3, 2011 we held a highly successful Gourmet Wine and Cheese Weekend which is still talked about in the community. Money raised from this event purchased new tables and chairs for the kindergarten. Community businesses were very generous in providing financial donations to the kindergarten during 2011 which enabled the purchase of new furniture, computers, and equipment.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
  
  Our 2 feeder schools include, Roxby Downs Area School and St Barbara’s Parish School.

- Other local care and educational facilities, e.g. child care, schools, OSHC
  
  2 Childcare Centres (Roxby Downs Child Care Centre, & Roxby Early Learning Community Group)
  
  3 Schools (Roxby Downs Area School, St. Barabara’s Parish School, and Andamooka School)
  
  OHSC
  
  Playgroup
  
  Kindergym/Nippergym

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  
  For a relatively small community, there is an extensive range of services, both Government and local retail. The majority of the local retail is situated along the main street & within “Roxby Central” – our local shopping mall. There are also shopping and office facilities on Tutop Street.
• Other local facilities, e.g. medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational
  : We have a Medical Centre/Community Health Centre, a private health practice & a Leisure Centre with a range of sporting activities and cultural events.

• Availability of staff housing
  : DTEI manages housing for employees; enquiries can be directed to the Port Augusta Regional District Office.

• Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality
  : Roxby Downs has a regular plane service to & from Adelaide.
  : By road it is 560 kilometres to Adelaide (roughly a 6 hour trip).

• Local Government body (name, phone number), availability of publications describing the local area (with source, cost), characteristics, level of involvement
  : Roxby Downs has a local Municipality and a town Administrator. A town board has been established to provide community links.
  Phone:- (08) 8671 0010
  We have 2 regular & free local newspapers that are distributed within our community. They are very informative, and include a Community Events calendar. There is also a community radio station (RoxFM) and a community website.

7. Further Comments