PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 6665

Centre name: Clare Valley Children’s Centre for Early Childhood Development and Parenting

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Amanda Narroway
- Postal address: PO Box 716, Clare SA 5453
- Location address: Cnr Elliot Street and Blyth Rd, Clare SA 5453
- Partnership: Mid North
- Geographical location: 135km north of Adelaide
- Telephone number: 88422483
- Fax number: 88423284
- Preschool website address: www.clarevalleycc.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.6665.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance average: 80 kindergarten children
- Co-located/stand-alone: On our site we host Toy Library, Learning Together at Home and Health
- Programs operating at the site: Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
We offer 15 hours of preschool. Families can choose from two groups.
Group A – Monday, Wednesday and alternate Fridays 9.00am-3.00pm
Group B Tuesday, Thursday and Alternate Fridays 9.00am -3.00pm

- Long Day Care
  Available from 7.00am – 6.00pm weekdays through the Child Care service

- Preschool Support
  Available for children with identified needs, Preschool Support for DECD Kindy children and ISS through Novita.

- Community Development Co-ordinator and associated Children’s centre activities

- Playgroup (Friday Mornings)

2. **Key Centre Policies**

   Integration of services

   Well being of staff and children

   Literacy – particularly oral language

   Partnerships with family

   Stustainable practices

   Viewing children as confident and capable

   Numeracy
3. **Curriculum**

- **Framework used:**
  
  A play based curriculum which is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework.

- **Core Values**
  
  The **Core Values** for the Centre are:

  Family, Quality, Lifelong Learning, Fun and Team Work.

- **Specific curriculum approaches**
  
  Child Care children if not already in kindy join the kindy programme in the term they are turning 4. A childcare worker works along side the kindy educators.

  A continuous planning, assessing and reporting process which begins when children are welcomed at the Centre and involves parents in supporting their children's learning.

  We emphasise primary care giving throughout the centre

  We emphasise strong and genuine two way relationships and partnerships with families

  We implement “Learning Stories” as a programming, planning and assessment tool

  We critically reflect our practices and programmes

4. **Centre Based Staff**

- **Staff Profile**
  
  Director with 2 days teaching and 3 days admin.
  
  2.5 Early Childhood Teachers
  
  1.5 FTE Early Childhood Workers and 1 Early Childhood Pre School Support worker
  
  Assistant Director – 2 days admin
  
  4 Educational Leaders
  
  10 Core Staff with Primary Care groups
  
  7 relief and lunch cover staff
  
  Children’s Services Employeesel 2.1
  
  3 Clerical staff
  
  2 Cooks
Performance Management Program
The centre’s performance management program is based on the DECD Performance Management Policy. It is designed to provide staff with opportunities for involvement in their own performance evaluation and appropriate skills development.

Access to special support staff
Special support staff for Child Care enrolments are accessed through Inclusion SA, whilst children in the kindergarten are supported through early assistance grants and Regional support services staff.

Other - Role of the Director
The focus for this position is to provide leadership for a multi service site that provides high quality care and education services to children and their families within an Integrated Service provision context. It includes a .4 teaching role in the Kindergarten.

As the child care service operates 7.00am -6:00pm weekdays for 50 weeks of the year, out of hours work will be necessary. The Director is also site manager to all services in the Centre.

The Child Care service is run as a business. The Director works closely with the Finance sub-committee comprising parents and the Director. This Committee oversees a substantial budget including wages. The Management Committee employs the staff in the Child Care service and delegates the day-to-day running of the service to the Director. There are 200 families using the range of services in the Centre.

The Director provides significant and positive leadership in developing and guiding the vision for the Centre.

Children are involved in a number of transitions: from home or Family Day Care to the Centre; from room to room within the Centre and from Kindergarten to School. The Director plays a proactive role in liaising with schools and the wider community, facilitating positive transition experiences for children and their families.

The Director works with the leadership team. This team consists of the Assistant Director who oversees child care. Each room also has a team leader (Educator Leader) – including Kindy/ Over 4, Over Two and Under Two. This team meets for the purpose of planning and coordinating centre events, and to foster planning and communication throughout the centre.
5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds

The centre is a purpose built integrated service jointly funded by State and Commonwealth Governments. It includes a Kindergarten and Child Care service. The centre also has a meeting room, a staff room, office and large administration area. The centre is adjacent to Clare High School. A jointly funded building was established in 2008 and incorporates the Toy Library and services of the Lower North health – Healthy Families team.

The grounds incorporate several play areas, three storage sheds and a 40 space car park. And recently a staff car park has been developed for staff.

Capacity (per session)
The site is licensed for 104 children on site

- Centre Ownership
DECD

- Access for children and staff with disabilities
Relatively easy access and support available.

- Other

As an integrated centre, Clare Valley Children’s Centre also offers a range of additional services to families within the community.

A D.E.C.D. funded and community managed Toy Library operates from the Clare Valley Children’s Centre site 2 hours, 2 days per week.

A Parent run playgroup operates at Clare Primary School on Friday mornings.

Child and Youth Health conduct Health Checks for children 4 years, parenting sessions and toddler programs.

The Healthy Families team of Lower North Health are situated in a purpose built building on site. The team includes services such as social work, podiatry, speech pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy.
6. **Local Community** (intended for country preschools)

- **General characteristics:**
  Clare is a country township providing a regional focus for the lower and mid north. The region provides significant opportunities for seasonal work. There is some diversity in the population within the district however; the local community does not significantly reflect the cultural diversity of the South Australian community as a whole.

  The children come from a range of geographical situations- rural, isolated and urban. Most children enrolled are from English speaking backgrounds. The socio-economic backgrounds of the children are diverse.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool**

  Families are involved in the management of the Centre through a Management Committee, and related sub committees. Parents also assist with daily programs, and other tasks that assist the service.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool**

  The Kindergarten feeds into 9 schools in the district. These include St Joseph’s Catholic School (Clare), Vineyard Lutheran School (Clare), Blyth Primary, Clare Primary, Watervale Primary, Spalding Primary, Auburn Primary, Mintaro/Farrell Flat Primary School and Horizon Christian School, Balaklava.

- **Other local care and educational facilities,**

  Four school facilities are located within Clare, including three primary schools and a combined middle/high school complex. An O.S.H.C. program is located at Clare Primary and Blyth Primary. There is also the Gums child care centre who offers care for children 3 months to 5 years.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

  Clare shopping precinct houses two supermarkets, a number of real estate agents, hardware stores and a broad selection of retail outlets. Local businesses including: 3 hotels, a number of restaurants/coffee shops, information technology providers and wine related industries.

  The local council is the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council. Ph 88422700. Publications describing the local area are available free of charge from the Clare Valley Tourist Information Centre. Ph.88422131.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**

  Clare has a hospital and two medical practices with a total of eight Doctors. Health is well catered for with Dentists, Chiropractors, Physiotherapists, Lactation Consultants and Naturopaths . The Community Health Centre is located at the hospital and includes CAYH, Dieticians, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist and other health related personnel.
Recreational facilities include numerous wineries and restaurants, playgrounds, and many service clubs and hobby clubs.

- **Other local facilities**
  Sporting clubs and facilities are numerous and includes lawn and hard tennis courts, ovals, and squash courts. The Reisling Trail is a popular walking and riding track.

- **Availability of staff housing**
  Housing is available to DECD employees through the Office of Government Employee Housing.

- **Accessibility**
  There is a daily bus service to Adelaide

- **Local Government**
  The local council is the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council. Ph 88422700. Publications describing the local area are available free of charge from the Clare Valley Tourist Information Centre. Ph.88422131.

### 7. Further Comments

- **Partnership arrangements with other groups**
  We currently operate under two constitutions as required by law.
  The Clare Kindergarten and the Clare Valley Children’s Centre Inc.