



2024 annual report to the Community

Elizabeth East Kindergarten

Elizabeth East Kindergarten number: 2612

Partnership: Elizabeth



Preschool director:

Antonietta Dinham

Signature

Date of endorsement:

18/03/2025



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Context Statement

Information about Elizabeth East Kindergarten is available on the centres website, as well as the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website.

Elizabeth East Kindergarten (EEK) is located between Elizabeth East and Hillbank on Kurna Land. It operates as a full-time Department for Education service, with a capacity for 50 children, we currently welcome 45 children enrolled students. EEK is a culturally diverse community where 51% of families speak English as a second language.

In the 2025 academic year, 48% of children enrolled joined from Mid-Year 2024. The group includes 6 Aboriginal children, 4 children with special rights, and 17 children with trauma backgrounds. Additionally, 10 children need inclusive education support program (IESP) assistance, 6 require continence care or toileting support, 9 need speech and language support and 14 children require bilingual support.

The kindergarten offers two group sessions each week: Group 1 attends Monday and Tuesday, and Group 2 attends Wednesday and Thursday, from 8:30 AM to 3:15 PM. To ensure all children access their 15-hour entitlement, each group attends alternate Friday sessions from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

The staff team includes a full-time Director, a 0.4 FTE Teacher, a full-time Teacher, a 0.5 FTE Early Childhood Worker (ECW), a 0.2 FTE Occasional Care Worker, and additional ECW support and Bilingual Support. The kindergarten provides an inclusive and holistic approach to supporting children with special rights, collaborating with Department for Education Support Services (including Speech Pathology, Psychology, Social Work, Special Education, and Behaviour Coaching) and external agencies such as NOVITA, Autism SA, and Disability SA for Speech, Psychology, and Occupational Therapy services.

Governing Council Report

Introduction

In 2024 there has been significant change at Elizabeth East Kindergarten. We have navigated staffing transitions, capacity adjustments, and continued to foster a vibrant community through various initiatives and events.

Staffing Changes

2024 brought changes to our teaching staff. Steph Leaney went on maternity leave, Courtney Tonzing won a Director position at Mawson Lakes Kindergarten and Annie stepped into the Acting Director role, maintaining a similar staffing model, Maddison Santepietro accepted a 0.8 teaching contract, working Tuesday to Friday, while Sean Xung accepted a 0.6 contract, working Monday to Wednesday. Each teacher had their own focus group.

Early in 2024, the Director position was advertised, and Antonietta Dinham successfully secured a full-time tenure until 2030. In Term 3, Steph returned from maternity leave at 0.4, and both Maddison and Sean ended their contracts. This period was challenging, due to limited teaching staff available. EEK kindergarten relied on various relief staff until the end of the year which became unsettling for staff and families. We did our best to ensure staffing was consistent for children however this was not always the case. It was important to continue nurturing relationships among educators and families with a big focus on team culture and developing our purpose and philosophy.

Capacity and Enrolment

The capacity of Elizabeth East Kindergarten in 2024 was adjusted from 60 to 50, impacting staffing and enrolments. Beginning of 2024 we had 39 children enrolled, with 21 in the Monday/Tuesday group and 18 in the Wednesday/Thursday group. We have not yet reached full capacity.

Governing Council

Jessica Birrell continued as the Governing Council Chair in 2024, providing a welcoming and supportive environment for new families joining the committee. The Governing Council committee comprised seven board members: Talisa, Maryam, Sohra, Yasmin, Sarah, Ashleigh, and Cassie. This is one of the biggest Governing Council Committee's we have fostered at Elizabeth East Kindergarten, site goal is to continue to grow our committee from here. Financial SASIF Signatories and Banking approvals were adjusted and signed by Jessica, seconded by Talisa.

Highlights of 2024

Several exciting developments took place in 2024, enhancing the kindergarten's environment and community engagement:

- **Team Around the Child Painting:** We installed a painting by a local artist Scott Rathman, incorporating voices from the Governing Council, families, educators, and children about what Elizabeth East Kindergarten means to them.
- **Garden Renovations:** We brightened the kindergarten with a fresh new garden, creating a more inviting space for learning and play.
- **Consistent Friday Kindergarten Days:** 2024 was the introduction to Friday Kindy. These days began with four participants and grew to eight, featuring family fun days including music and movement session, fun messy day and marshmallows by the fire.
- **End of Year Graduation:** Our end-of-year graduation was a resounding success, with 150 people attending. We were honoured to have the Mayor and Thomas, the principal from across the road, share wonderful comments. The event concluded 2024 on a high note, featuring face painting and farm animals, with a large turnout. Mayor Glenn Docherty joined us for the celebration. We were truly blessed to have a parent who is Aboriginal bless our space with a smoking ceremony and an Acknowledgment of Country, enriching the occasion with cultural significance and respect.
- **Foodbank Trolley:** A new Foodbank trolley was introduced, allowing families to access essential items on their way out, supporting our community's needs.
- **Documentation Wall:** We added a documentation wall, receiving positive feedback from families. The calm music and inviting entryway have made the space warm and welcoming.
- **Food Grant:** We successfully won \$3000 food grant which we are excited to use with children and families to engage in cooking experiences as well as add other ingredients to the food trolley.

PQIP and Educational Strategy

In 2024, we continued to focus on the developmental needs of children through our Preschool Quality Improvement Plan (PQIP). This represents a significant shift from our focus over the past three years. Our aim is to support emotional, physical, and language development in our group this year.

We have seen growth by changing our PQIP, including adjustments in our cycle of planning, observing the child, and engaging in deeper discussions around the interpretation of learning. This has enabled us to effectively plan the "where to next" for each child's development.

Team Culture and Site Philosophy

In Term 4, we focused on building team culture and developing our site philosophy. This initiative aimed to strengthen collaboration among staff and align our educational practices with our core values and goals.

Conclusion

Despite the challenges faced in 2024, Elizabeth East Kindergarten has continued to thrive, thanks to the dedication of our staff, the support of our Governing Council, and the involvement of our families. We look forward to building on these successes in the coming year.

Preschool Attendance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2021 centre	76.6%	76.7%	83.2%	83.7%
2022 centre	85.7%	45.2%	77.4%	73.3%
2023 centre	55.8%	68.5%	64.4%	72.8%
2024 centre	76.2%	55.09%	69.7%	47.09%

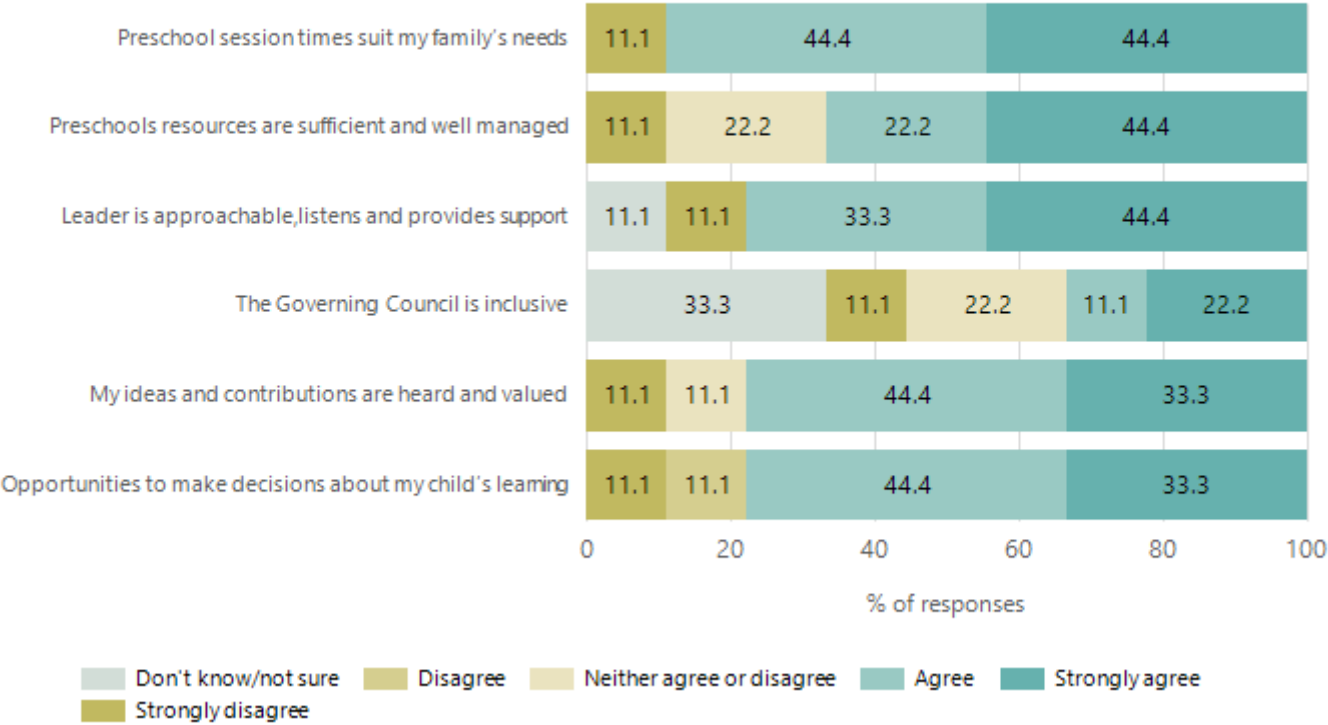
Based on attendances recorded in the two-week reference period each term. Data for eligible enrolments as described in the department's Enrolment policy. Attendance rates may differ to previous reporting with the transfer from calculations based on deemed attendance to actual attendance using booked hours divided by attended hours. Data Source: Department for Education Attendance Data, Semester 1 Report 2024. A blank cell indicates there we no students enrolled.

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.

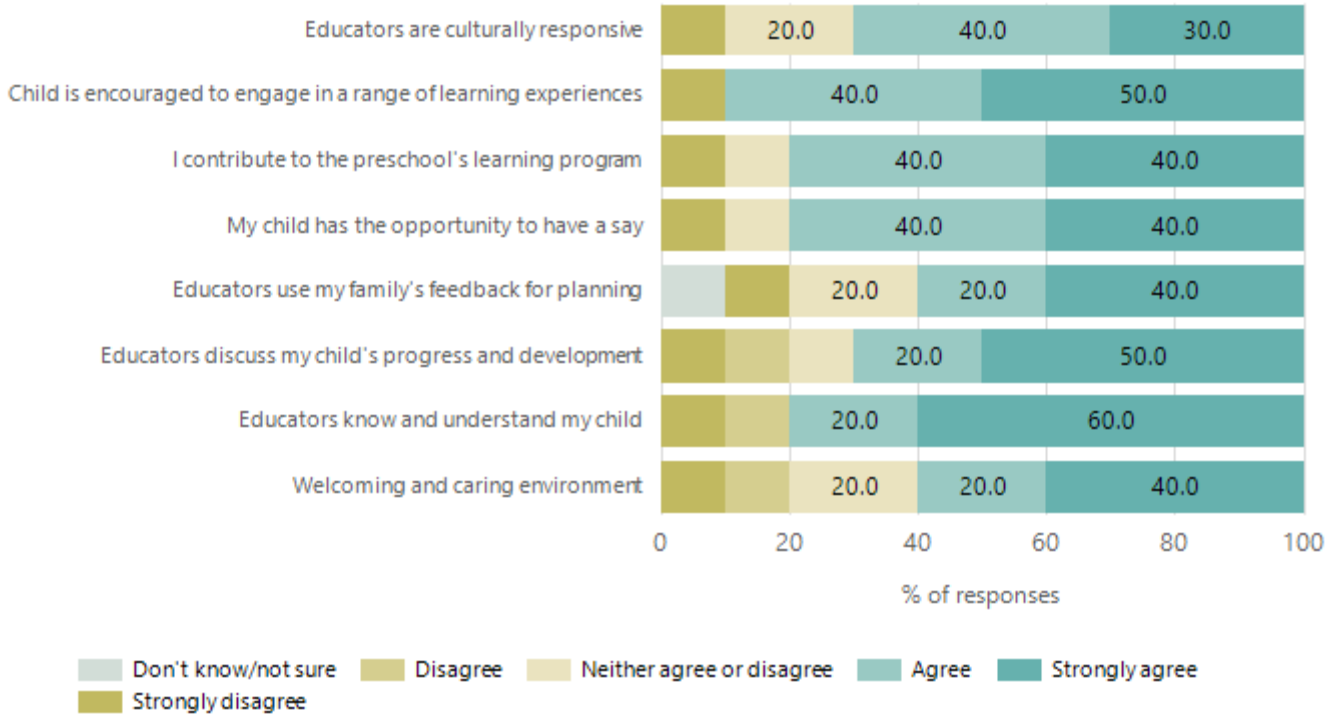
Preschool Family Opinion Survey

Governance, Leadership and Management



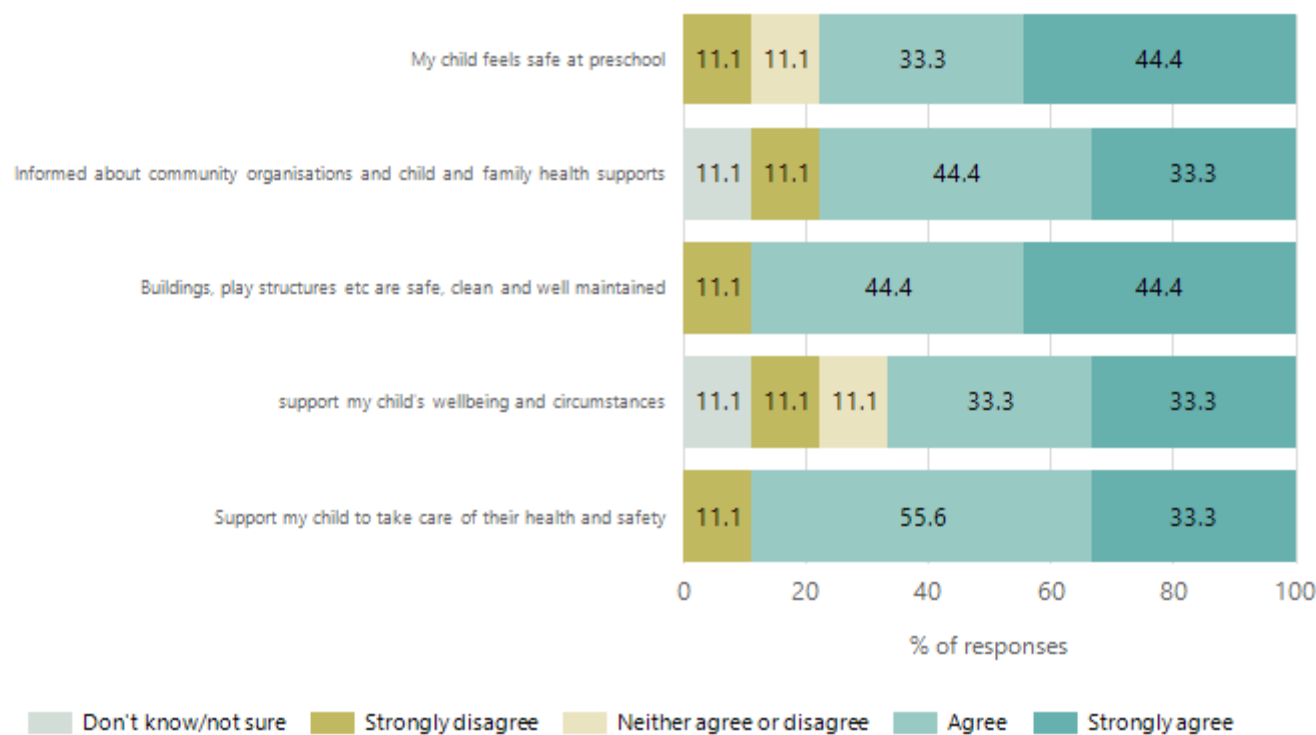
Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

Quality of Teaching and Learning



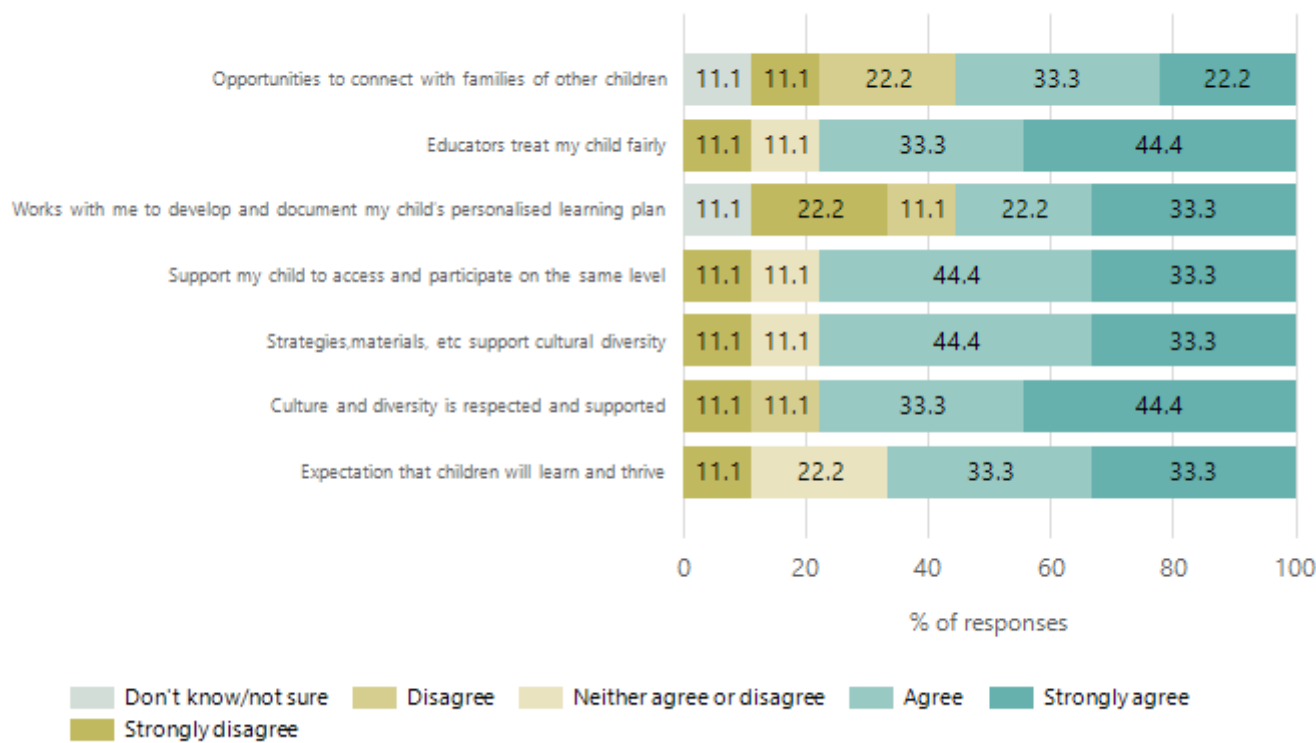
Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

Safety, Health and Wellbeing



Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

Support and Inclusion



Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

Destination Schools

Feeder Schools (Site number - Name)	2022	2023	2024
0943 - Elizabeth East Primary School	29.3%	11.5%	53.9%
1854 - Blakeview Primary School			3.1%
5463 - Pinnacle College - Elizabeth East Campus	7.3%		
9023 - St Thomas More School	14.6%	3.3%	4.6%
9164 - Playford College	4.9%		
9999 - Unknown	31.7%	80.3%	30.8%

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, 2024.

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	2

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collections as on the last pay date of June 2024. 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	1.4	0.0	1.8
Persons	0.0	2.0	0.0	3.0

Data Source: Data extracted from Mandatory Workforce Information Collection as on the last pay date of June 2024.

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	
Grants: Commonwealth	
Parent Contributions	\$19000
Fund Raising	
Other	\$3000

Data Source: School supplied data.