



2023 annual report to the Community

Elsie Ey Children's Centre

Elsie Ey Children's Centre number: 2622

Partnership: Greater Gawler



Preschool director:

Michelle Cunningham

Date of endorsement:

20/02/2024



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Context Statement

Information about Elsie Ey Children's Centre is available on the centres website, as well as the Australian Childrens Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website.

Elsie Ey Children's Centre (EECC) continues to provide children with an authentic and unique social setting for their preschool learning experience. With an original commencement date of 1947 in a church hall in the heart of Gawler, the kindergarten moved several times before being relocated to its current purpose-built location in 2003. In 2006 an inclusive preschool program (IPP) was added and in 2012 the site was re-branded as a children's centre, expanding community access to early childhood services for the 0-3 age group. We are a not-for-profit, Department for Education organisation offering a range of playgroups, parenting programs and services, and a play-based preschool program through the implementation of the "Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia" document. Our IPP enables children with complex health and extensive developmental learning needs to access a general preschool program with modified learning plans and intensive support. Fostering an understanding and appreciation of social diversity is a key component in our learning community. Being a Children's Centre we have an added advantage of being able to access the skills and knowledge of our Community Development Coordinator, Occupational Therapist and Speech pathologist in working in partnerships with children and families. We also frequently liaise with the Student Support Services team to broaden the multiple perspectives included in planning for preschool children and our community team engage both government and non-government organisations to facilitate universal and targeted groups, parenting programs and services for children 0-3 years. As per DE guidelines, eligible preschool children are able to access up-to 30 hours of preschool per fortnight. During the enrolment process, families are able to choose which of two attendance patterns best suits their needs. Set attendance patterns ensure children experience consistency with both peers and educators, enabling them to develop meaningful and rewarding relationships while facilitating the continuity of their learning. The preschool is consistently staffed above the regulation educator: child ratio. In 2024 our core preschool team will consist of 12 educators, with additional support arranged as required. Our program heavily values exploring our local community, both with the adjoining primary school and the surrounding nature trails and reserves. These spaces are integral parts of our intentional planning and are environments in which children are supported to extend their capabilities, take-risks, extend their social engagement and transfer learning to settings beyond the preschool grounds. All preschool educators were involved in termly QIP tracking reflections and our 2023 site PQIP review. We use an extensive range of data sets to help determine areas of need within our preschool community. These include behaviour logs, statements of learning, educator observation and documentation, support funding allocation and extensive needs adjustment requests, referrals to external agencies, CaFHS reports, AEDC results, family and community information and feedback, and the NQS self-reflection tool. We have had focus on positive engagement in the preschool program for the past 3 years, first looking at interoceptive awareness, and then regulation and sensory processing. As a result, the language and principles of the 'Zones of Regulation' is now an embedded regulation strategy at the site. In 2023 we began learning through the music education strategy using song, beat and music as an additional regulation tool. A range of data sets has shown music to be a universal 'language' that is inclusive of, and accessible by, all members our preschool and that promotes communication, engagement and overall well-being. In 2024, all educators will continue our learning on how to use music as a key strategy to enhance children's effective engagement and learning at preschool through developing key executive functioning skills.

Governing Council Report 2023

Chairperson – Kristen Jones

Welcome to everybody that has come along to Elsie Ey Children's Centre AGM.

I would like to start by thanking all of last year's committee members for all of their contributions to the centre.

In 2023 Elsie Ey Children's Centre turned 20 at this location in Hewett. As part of the governing council, we had the pleasure of planning along with Michelle and the staff a celebration for the children. It was a wonderful morning for the children to receive a commemorative certificate, cookie, facepainting, arts and crafts and families to come along for some fun. The Bunyip was also invited to come along and take some photos of the children and parents enjoying the celebrations.

We also got to celebrate Michelle Cunningham being honoured with a lifetime award for all of her hard work and dedication to centre. Michelle is a fantastic asset to Elsie Ey Childrens centre.

Last year saw some upgrades to the centre that have been in the planning for the past few years but delayed due to covid, stock issues etc. These being acoustic boards, glass door and windows to the quiet area, fencing and gate to the centre and also the retaining wall/ garden bed next to the entrance of the centre.

Members reviewed key policies and documents as required and made the appropriate changes as necessary.

Fundraising for 2023 included Polo tops/ jumpers, Picture Plates, Kindy Photos and Souvenir Tea Towels. These were all very successful. The total amount raised for 2023 was \$4,648.28. the total amount spent was \$6,010.25 due to the initial outlay of polos and hats but will be made back with the sales of polo tops.

Finally, I would like to say I am very proud of where the centre is going it is a wonderful environment for the children and I hope all of them have a fabulous 2024.

I have had the great pleasure of being apart of this kindy for the last 3 years and chairperson for those 3 years. It has been a wonderful opportunity to get involved and watch the centre become what we see today. I encourage everyone here tonight to become apart of the governing council and be a part of this amazing centre.

Thank you for this opportunity it has been a real pleasure I wish everyone all the best for a wonderful year ahead.

Kristen Jones

Preschool Attendance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2020 centre	92%		91.5%	89.8%
2021 centre	89.8%	76.2%	89.1%	88.8%
2022 centre	86.8%	69.8%	84.3%	84.4%
2023 centre	86.5%	88.6%	81.9%	77.2%
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 we 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.

estination Schools

Feeder Schools (Site number - Name)	2021	2022	2023
41 - Gawler Primary School	3.5%		
42 - Evanston Gardens Primary School	3.5%		
87 - Roseworthy Primary School	11.8%	7.3%	16.2%
76 - Hewett Primary School	54.1%	61.0%	51.5%
64 - Trinity College South School	3.5%		
37 - Trinity College North School	3.5%		4.0%
99 - Unknown	10.6%	22.0%	14.1%

te: 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 dents enrolled.

a 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	2
Postgraduate Qualifications	3

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	3.8	0.0	5.4
Persons	0.0	5.0	0.0	8.0

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	\$1,094,185
Grants: Commonwealth	
Parent Contributions	\$30,765
Fund Raising	\$5,466
Other	\$166,572

Data Source: School supplied data.