

2024 annual report to the Community

Happy Valley Kindergarten

Happy Valley Kindergarten number: 3640

Partnership: South Valley



Preschool director:

Elise Wheaton

Date of endorsement:

19/02/2025



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Context Statement

Happy Valley Kindergarten is a stand-alone kindergarten and is located adjacent to the Happy Valley Community Child Care. Enrolments are capped at 44 children, attending either Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday/Thursday and alternate ½ day Fridays.

In 2024, Happy Valley Kindergarten began with consistent staff team, with Elise Wheaton returning as Director, Maddie Merenda, Lovleen Kaur and Sarah Vincent as teachers and Anissa Silverlock, Aza Oros, and Alicia Gaston as ECW's. This allowed for the development of strong curriculum and improvement plans. The whole team engaged in Orbis Preschool Literacy, this shared professional development supported consistent and evidence-informed practice in providing early literacy experiences for children. Staff gained depth of knowledge, time to reflect and consider current practice and implementation of changes to curriculum. We developed a consistent, sustainable approach to literacy learning at Happy Valley Kindergarten. Term 3 saw us farewell Maddie Merenda and welcome Andrea Gore to the teaching team. Andrea took on mid-year enrolling children and staff utilized guiding documents and research to develop and test consistency in programming and differentiation for our existing and mid-year learners. Through staff reflection, the team have developed cyclical approaches to support all learners to access and have exposure to multiple curriculum areas across their kindergarten year. This dedicated team prides themselves on strong relationships with children and families, thank you for the passion and dedication you show in your roles.

The incorporation of Seesaw as a shared communication platform continued to be of benefit in providing families with timely information, ease of communication to kindergarten staff, and access to examples of their child's engagement in learning. As the year progressed parents also engaged in a consultation process about redevelopment of outdoor learning areas.

There continues to be a strong sense of following children's lead and interests, alongside teaching practice that supports foundational literacy, numeracy and social learning for children in the emerging curriculum opportunities throughout 2024. Some of these experiences include leading their own learning design through creating socio-dramatic play spaces and an obstacle course for the much-loved Challenge-a-thon; developing their understanding of lifecycles, watching chicks grow and butterflies emerge, as they cared for other living things; learning about Kaurna culture and developing their own Acknowledgement of Country. We were again privileged to have UniSA OT students, provide interactive OT sessions for a small group during Term 3; and educators attended local partnership workshops to extend learning in phonological awareness and Music Education.

Governing Council Report

2024 Happy Valley Kindergarten's Governing Council consisted of dedicated parents from both groups A and B, including those from beginning of the year as well as a mid-year family intake. The council met twice a term to discuss functionality and objectives of the kindergarten.

Agendas consisting of navigating move across to EMS (centralised) Finance, consideration of kindergarten session times, combining children's Friday 1/2 day sessions, new fencing and gates, fundraising, and leading parent contributions to redevelopment of outdoor learning areas were top priorities this year. The Governing Council also assisted with updating policies and procedures, general decision-making, fundraising and events, updating and reviewing the PQIP, and reviewed financial reports.

Throughout the year three successful fundraisers were planned and executed by GC members and the staff team resulting in good profit margins. These fundraising included a Wine Drive \$300 raised, annual children's memento tea towels and the People's Community Lottery \$226.

Governing Council has been honoured work alongside the Kindergarten's Director Elise and her wonderfully dedicated team of teachers and educators. Together they have created a warm, encouraging, nurturing and inclusive environment for our children to learn and explore throughout 2024.

Children participated in a number of meaningful incursion and excursions throughout the year being including Superluminal by Patch Theatre at the SA Museum, playground research trip to Marshmallow Park, local walks, Bugs & Slugs, Animals Anonymous, City of Onkaparinga Council visit, and some Ukelele sing-a-long sessions with one of our parents, Kate Fielder.

Happy Valley Kindergarten has provided a strong foundation for children to continue developing independence, confidence, resilience and a sense of belonging ensuring they have a strong foundation in education before starting school.

It has been a privileged to have had the opportunity to Chair Governing Council again this year. Being able to collaborate with the Kindergarten’s Director, teachers, educators and families has been a great opportunity to see how the Kindergarten works from all perspectives and help prepare our children for the next stage of schooling.

Jackie Stacy (Rowlands)

Preschool Attendance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2021 centre	93.4%	92.2%	90.2%	88.1%
2022 centre	91.7%	61.3%	83%	71.2%
2023 centre	84.5%	67.5%	79%	86.9%
2024 centre	76.9%		82.9%	

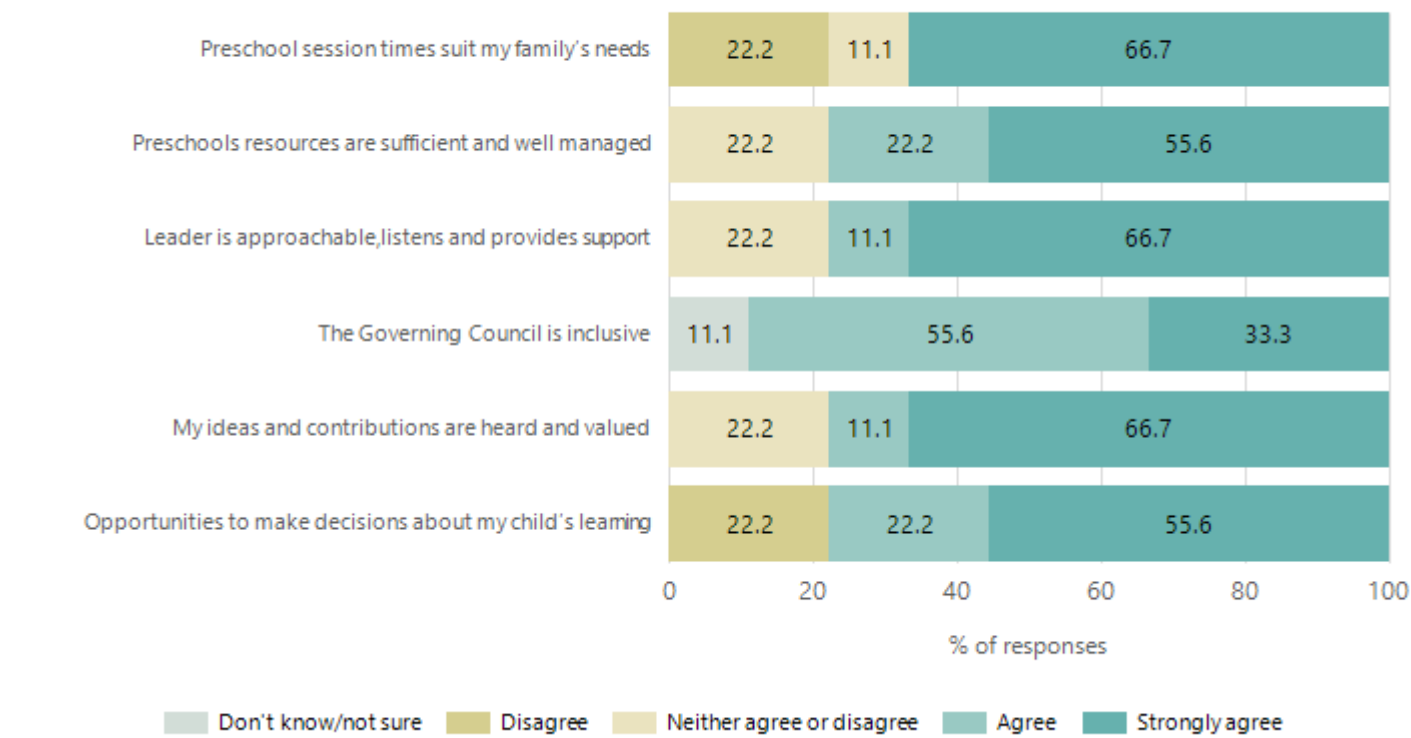
Based on attendances recorded in the two-week reference period each term. Data for eligible enrolments as described in the department's Enrolment policy. Attendance rates may differ to previous reporting with the transfer from calculations based on deemed attendance to actual attendance using booked 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.

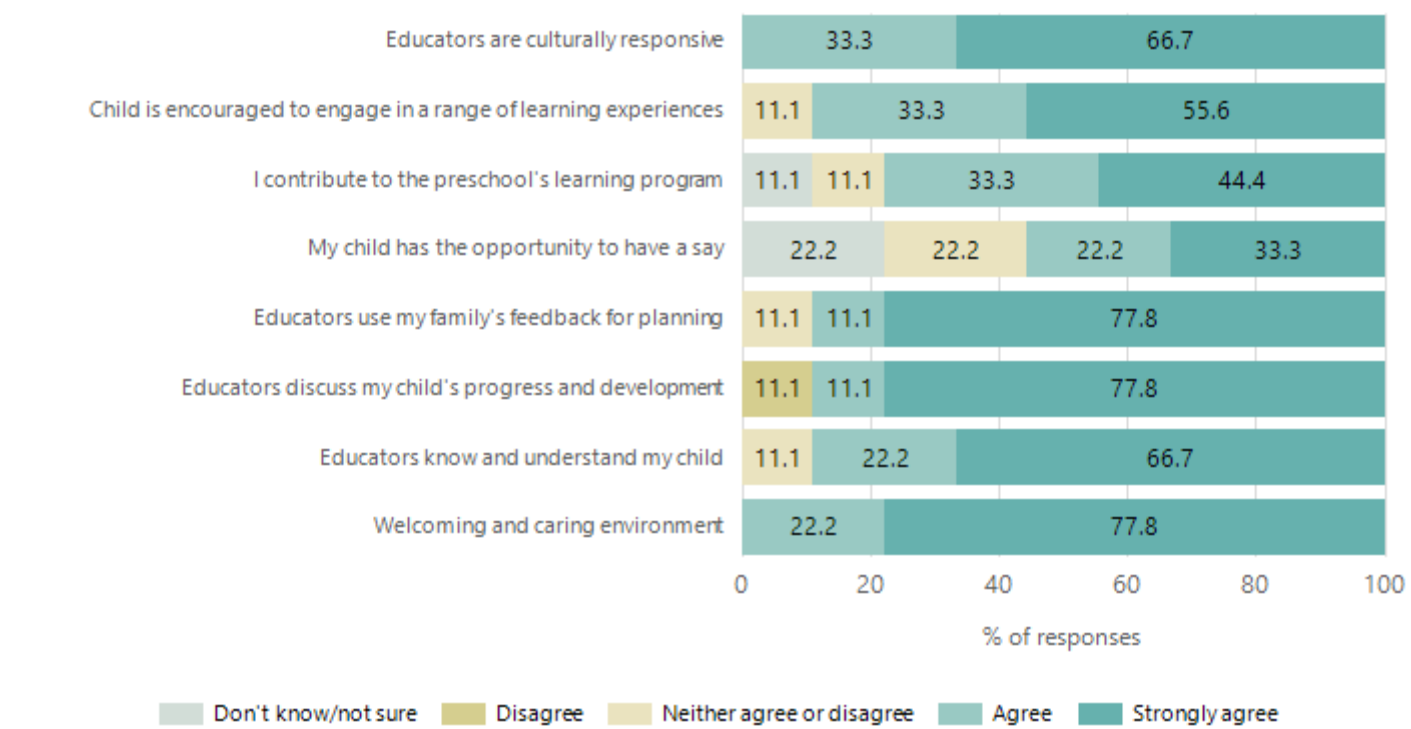
Preschool Family Opinion Survey

Governance, Leadership and Management



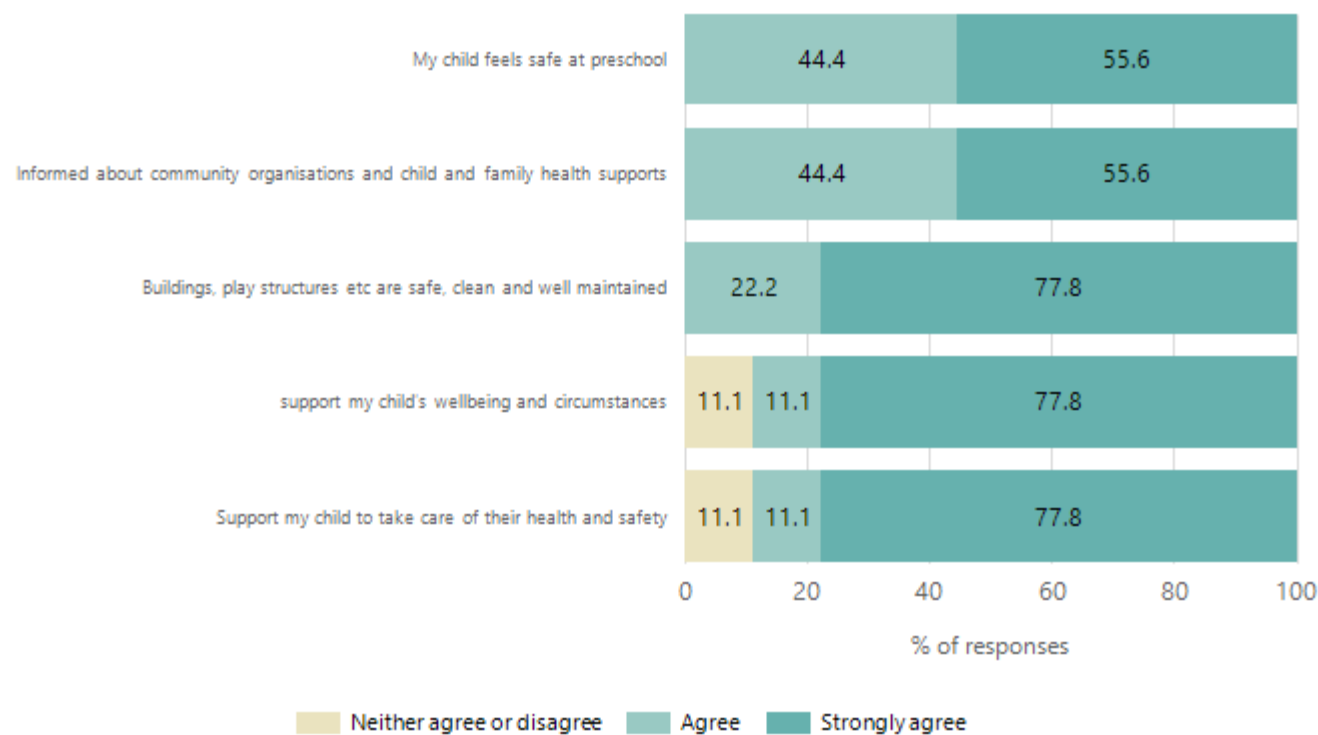
Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

Quality of Teaching and Learning



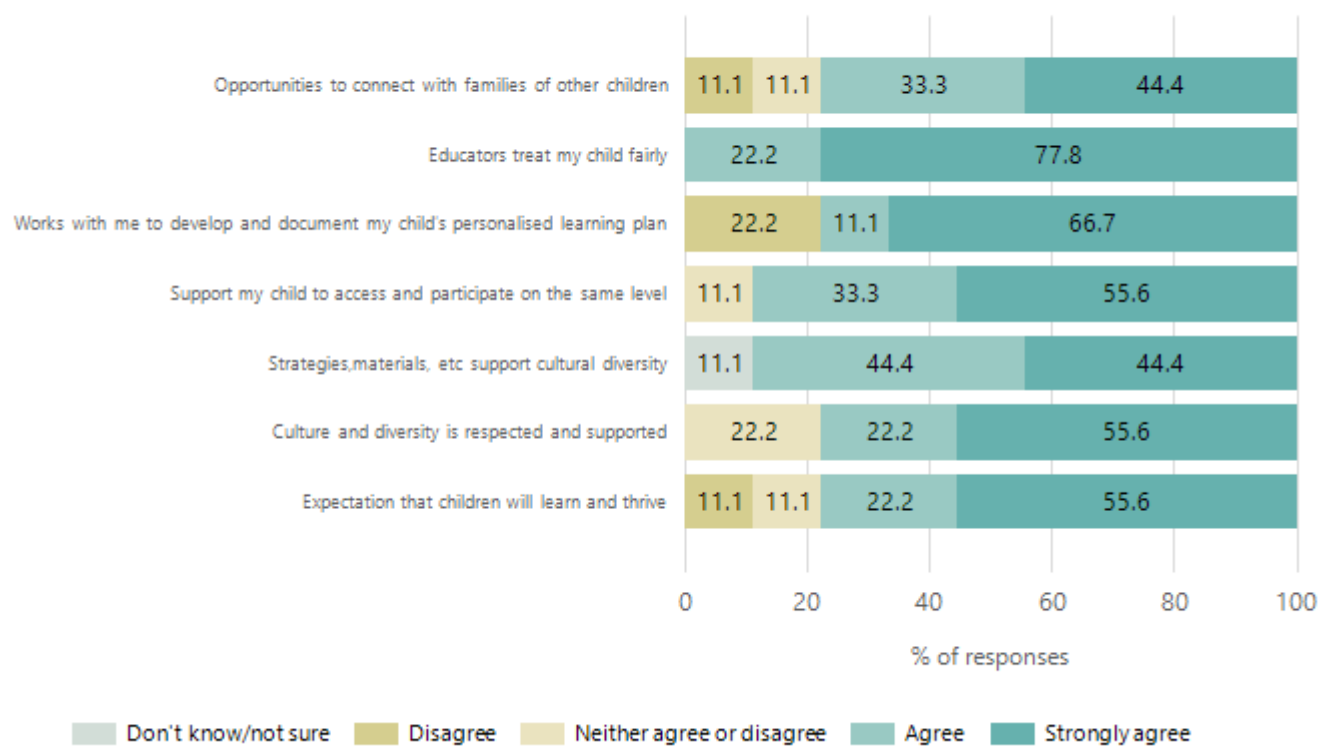
Data Source: 2024 Department for Education Preschool Family Opinions Survey, Term 3 2024.

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
0171 - Happy Valley Primary School	11.5%	11.3%	11.7%
0323 - Coorara Primary School			3.3%
0379 - Reynella Primary School			6.7%
1056 - Woodend Primary School		3.2%	
1163 - Braeview School	21.2%	21.0%	16.7%
1907 - Reynella East College	5.8%	3.2%	5.0%
8284 - Our Saviour Lutheran School		3.2%	
8434 - School of the Nativity	3.9%		
8435 - Pilgrim School		3.2%	
8456 - St Martin de Porres School			5.0%
9074 - Stella Maris Parish School			3.3%
9755 - Emmaus Catholic School			15.0%
9999 - Unknown	48.1%	43.6%	21.7%

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
Postgraduate Qualifications	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	2.6	0.0	1.0
Persons	0.0	4.0	0.0	1.0

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	\$527, 109.26
Grants: Commonwealth	
Parent Contributions	\$33, 110.00
Fund Raising	\$866.35
Other	\$4, 624.50

Data Source: School supplied data.