PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT

Centre number: 6624
Centre name: Jamestown Community Children’s Centre

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Alison Arthur
- Postal address: 78 Irvine St Jamestown 5491
- Location address: 78 Irvine St Jamestown 5491
- DECD Region: Yorke and Mid North
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 212
- Telephone number: 86641276
- Fax number: 86641050
- Preschool website address: www.jamestownpre.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: kindy.director@jamestownpre.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment/Attendance: 34 children enrolled in preschool / Regular attendance. Up to 15 childcare places per day, depending on centre capacity and preschool numbers.
- Co-located/stand-alone: stand alone (will move to a new purpose built centre co-located with Jamestown Community School in mid 2013)
- Programs operating at the preschool:
  - 15 hours per week of preschool (kindergarten) for eligible children. Children attend in two groups due to high enrolment numbers in 2012.
- Group A: Monday (half day) / Tuesday (full day) / Thursday (full day)
- Group B: Tuesday (full day) / Wednesday (full day) / Friday (half day)

- Long Day Care for children aged 0-5: 8:00am – 6:00pm, 50 weeks per year. Full day and half day bookings are available on a permanent or casual basis.

- Vacation Care for children aged 5-12: 8:00am – 6:00pm during school holidays.

- After School Care for children aged 5-12: 3:30 – 6:00pm on school days. A school bus is available to drop children at After School Care.

- Lunch/Full Day Program for preschool and childcare children. We are a “lunch box” centre (children bring their lunch and snacks from home).

- Playgroup: Playgroup is a parent-operated program held on Mondays 9:30 – 11:00am. Cost is $2.00 per family.

- Preschool Support: the centre is funded for a support worker for children deemed eligible for support (e.g. speech, disability, behaviour).

2. **Key Centre Policies**

   Statement of Purpose: *To maximize all children's potential in a supportive, challenging and caring environment, which contributes to the wellbeing of the families in our community.*

3. **Curriculum**

   - Framework used: Early Years Learning Framework

   - Core Values: Holistic approaches, responsiveness to children, learning through play, respectful relationships, partnerships with families and community.

   - Specific curriculum approaches: Strengths-based program builds on children’s skills and interests.
Joint programmes/special curriculum projects:

- Integrated preschool and long day care
- Sustainability focus (chooks, garden, recycling)
- Physical activity program (local walks) in partnership with OPAL

4. Centre Based Staff

Employed by DECD:
- Full time Director (PSD04)
- Preschool Teacher 0.6 FTE
- Early Childhood Worker (Level 2) 0.6 FTE
- Preschool Support Worker (FTE depends on funding for children with additional needs)

Employed by Governing Council
- Full time Assistant Director of Childcare (Diploma Qualified)
  - 2 Diploma-Qualified Childcare Workers (20-25 hours per week)
  - 2 Permanent Certificate III Childcare Workers (8-15 hours per week)
  - 3 Casual Certificate III Childcare Workers (variable FTE)
  - Groundsperson
  - Cleaner

- Performance Management Program
  All staff members meet with Director or Assistant Director twice a year to develop and review performance goals. Written feedback is provided.

- Access to special support staff
  - Preschool support worker
  - DECD support staff for speech, hearing, behaviour, attendance, disability, psychology and social work
  - Novita – therapy, equipment, specialist services and support for families and staff working with children with physical disabilities / acquired brain injuries
  - Kilparrin – support for complex needs

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  The indoor learning environment provides an integrated play space for preschool and childcare children aged 0 to 5 years. The building includes a sleep room, bathroom
and nappy change bench and two gated areas which allow children to use age appropriate equipment. A large veranda which can be protected by clear blinds allows for year-round outdoor play.

The outdoor environment offers a natural “bush to garden” experience with trees and shrubs as well as a strawberry patch and flowers. Two sandpits, swings, a fort, a cubby, a bike track and a variety of portable climbing equipment allow for physical, sensory, social and imaginative play. Two well-stocked sheds contain outside play equipment from which children and staff members can select.

- Capacity (per session): 44
- Centre Ownership: Northern Areas Council (leased by DECD)
- Access for children and staff with disabilities: ramp entrance available

6. **Local Community** *(intended for country preschools)*

- General characteristics:
The majority of families are Anglo/Australian. Jamestown is a farming area with many associated rural businesses. There is a small forestry industry and timber mill and some small vineyards and olive plantations.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool:
Governing Council meets regularly and plays an important decision making role. The parent community is extremely supportive of the centre. Parents are rostered for preschool lunch duty and join the children for excursions and celebrations.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool:
Jamestown Community School, St James’ School, Spalding Primary School.

- Other local care and educational facilities:

Family Day Care, Kindergym, Story Time / Rhyme Time (Library program), Child and Youth Health, Dance Classes (ballet / hip hop), God’s Time for Toddlers.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities:
Supermarkets, butchers, hardware/garden centres, bakery, newsagent, jeweller, car dealers, insurance agents, pharmacy, banks, gift shop, legal firm, clothing stores, café, take away, hotels, motels, rural supplies, furniture and electrical, tyre centre,
crash repairs, Christian bookshop, airstrip, hairdressers, craft and quilting store, optometrist.

- Other local facilities
  Medical Centre and hospital with visiting specialists, ambulance, dentist, police station, CFS, Sporting Clubs, Library, Gym, Hydrotherapy pool, swimming pool, caravan/cabin park, churches, RSL, CWA, Apex, Probus, home for the aged.

- Availability of staff housing: Private rental

- Accessibility
  - 2½ hours to Adelaide
  - ¾ hour to Port Pirie and Clare on sealed roads
  - Air strip

- Local Government: Northern Areas Council

7. Further Comments

- The service will re-locate to a new purpose built centre with a larger capacity in 2013. The new site is co-located with Jamestown Community School and is due for completion in August 2013.