1. General information

Preschool Director: Amy Hunt

Postal address: Amy St Barmera, SA, 5345

Location address: Amy St Barmera, SA, 5345

DECD Partnership: Berri Barmera Partnership

Geographical location – 226km from Adelaide

Telephone number: 08 8588 2210

Fax number: 8588 1313

Preschool website address: www.barmerakgn.sa.edu.au

Preschool e-mail address: dl.6503@schools.sa.edu.au

Enrolment

Enrolment numbers have remained consistent over the last few years with an average of 57.

Co-located/stand-alone

Barmera Kindergarten is a stand-alone kindergarten

Programs operating at the preschool

Pre Entry – In term 4 of the year prior to children starting their eligible year

Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children – 5 full days a fortnight from 8:45 – 2:45

Funded Occasional Care Program – Fridays 9:00 -12:00

Preschool Support
2. Key Centre Policies

At Barmera Kindergarten we aim to instil a passion for learning and life, based on positive relationships. We value each child as a unique individual and provide an environment that is welcoming, exciting, engaging, spontaneous, fun and safe using natural materials and spaces.

We strive to achieve this by valuing individuals and acknowledging families are the children’s initial educators with significant on-going influence in their lives.

Policies are available on our website.

3. Curriculum

- Framework used:
  Early Years Learning Framework and Preschool Literacy and Numeracy Indicators.
- Core Values
  We provide a play based learning environment that is rich in nature play experiences.
- Specific curriculum approaches
  Emergent curriculum.
- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
  Bush kindy – which operates off site in Terms 2 & 3.
  WASP (Writing and Sensory Processing program) – run by a local feeder school.
  CAMPing (Co-ordination and Motor Planning Program) – run off site by kindy staff.
  Library visits – each week a group of kindy children visit the public library and the library visits the kindy once a week.

4. Centre Based Staff

Staff Profile – Currently at Barmera kindergarten we have the following staff

  Teaching staff: Director (1.0) – Amy Hunt
  Teacher (1.0) – Julie Plush
  Teacher (0.4) – Nadia Clarke
  Teacher (0.2) – Melanie Cant

  Early Childhood Workers:
  Sally Perry, Angela Psarakis, Katie Kassulke, Mel Ebert, Harjeet Singh
  (ECW’s also provide Preschool and Bilingual Support)

Performance Management Program

  All staff are involved in performance management at least twice a year. Teaching staff performance plans are linked to Australian Teaching Standards. All performance plans support site and partnership priorities.
5. Centre Facilities

Buildings and grounds
We are very fortunate at Barmera Kindergarten to have an extremely large outdoor learning environment which we are currently redeveloping to support our love and appreciation of nature play.

Capacity (per session)
39

Centre Ownership
DECD building, council land.

Access for children and staff with disabilities
Disabled access.

Other
Adjacent to town soccer oval.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

General characteristics:
There is a large amount of sessional work within the Riverland. There is a high level of unemployment within the Region.
The Riverland has a diverse cultural make up.
Berri, a local town approximately 15 minutes away, currently has a number of local developments occurring with new Bunnings and ALDI stores, which will offer new job opportunities and services.

Parent and community involvement in the preschool
Barmera Kindergarten is fortunate to have a strong supportive Governing Council. Families are encouraged to be involved at the kindy, in whatever form they feel comfortable, from helping with washing, to driving buses and servicing on governing council.

Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
Our major feeder schools include Barmera Primary, Cobdogla Primary and St Joseph’s School Barmera.

Other local care and educational facilities,
Many Barmera area families access Berri Community Child Care Centre. Within Barmera there are no Child Care centres but there are a few Family Day Care providers. We operate an Occasional Care Program as does St Joseph’s. Barmera Primary School offers an OSHC program for school aged children after school and during school holidays.

Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
We are within walking distance to the main street which offers a number of services and local shops. Berri is about 20 minutes away which has bigger shopping facilities and businesses.

Other local facilities
There is a medical clinic and hospital in Barmera.
There are many sporting opportunities available locally.
Availability of staff housing

Within Barmera and surrounding towns houses are regularly available for purchase and rent.

Government Employee Housing is available within some local towns.

Accessibility

Barmera is easily accessible from Adelaide being on a main Highway. Bus companies operate a regular service to and from Adelaide. Public transport is limited within the Riverland, but an inter town bus service is available also taxi’s.

Local Government

Berri Barmera Council

7. Further Comments

In 2014 Barmera Kindergarten was assessed under National Quality Standards and received Exceeding in all 7 areas. We are currently working towards gaining an Excellence Rating.