

PRESCHOOL CONTEXT STATEMENT



Government of South Australia

Department of Education and
Children's Services

Centre number: 6503

Updated: 3/7/2023

Centre name: Barmera Kindergarten

1. General information

- Preschool Director: Candice Clark
- 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
- Preschool website address: www.barmerakgn.sa.edu.au
- Preschool e-mail address: dl.6503@schools.sa.edu.au
- Enrolment
33 Preschool enrolments and 50 at mid-year.
- 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 days a fortnight, Mondays, Wednesdays with alternating Tuesdays or Tuesday, Thursdays with alternating Mondays
Session times 8:45 – 2:45

- ⌘ Funded Occasional Care Program – Friday 8:45 -11:45. Bookings made on a termly basis for fortnightly attendance.
- ⌘ 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 ongoing influence in their lives.

In 2021 we commenced the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, which connects our pedagogical approach, focus on environment and healthy eating.

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

Reggio Emilia (extending children's interests through inquiry based learning), emergent curriculum, nature pedagogy.

Joint programmes/special curriculum projects Nature Kindy – which operates off site in Terms 2 & 3.

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)– Candice Clark
Teacher (1.0)– Lauren Ashton
Teacher (0.6) – Julie Plush
Early Childhood Workers:
Sally Perry, Angela Psarakis, Katie Kassulke
- 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 priorities within our PQIP.

5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
We are extremely 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 large 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 a new Bunnings and ALDI store.*
- 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, including, washing, gardening, driving buses, Governing Council and the kitchen garden program.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool

Our major feeder schools include Barmera Primary, Cobdogla Primary and St Joseph's Barmera.
- Other local care and educational facilities,

Within Barmera there are no Child Care centres but there are a few Family Day Care providers. We operate an Occasional Care Program as so does St Joseph's. Barmera and Cobby Primary Schools offer an OSHC program for school aged children after school.
- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities

We are walking distance to the main street which offers a limited 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 in Barmera
- 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 regularly trips to Adelaide. Public transport is limited within the Riverland.
- Local Government

Barmera Kindergarten has a strong collaborative relationship with Berri Barmera Council.

7. Further Comments

In 2014 Barmera Kindergarten was assessed under National Quality Standards and received Exceeding in all 7 areas.