

CONTEXT STATEMENT

Trinity Gardens Children's Centre

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The Children's Centre

The Trinity Gardens Children's Centre is located on the Trinity Gardens School site overlooking a large grassed oval and up to the Adelaide Hills. The Centre is built and has spaces for children and parents for play, learning and meeting including its own outdoor learning area. It is flooded with natural light and fresh air.

At the Trinity Gardens Children's Centre, qualified early childhood staff, work together with families, to provide quality learning programs and care to support children's development, health, education and well-being. A welcoming place where families come to meet, learn more about parenting, gain advice and information on health, personal and family support.

There is a strong connection between the Children's Centre and the school. This makes transition from the Centre, to the school much easier for both parents and children.

Our school community is committed to creating an environment conducive to learning. We recognise the uniqueness of every child and support them as a learner to develop resilience, optimism, skills, confidence and social responsibility for them to achieve their full potential. Our values are respect, responsibility and learning.

As the part of the School, the Principal, Director and the Governing Council lead the Centre. The Director, with the Centre staff, oversee the day to day running of the programs. The Governing Council, in consultation with the staff, is responsible for the governance of the Centre.

Services and groups available at Trinity Gardens Children's Centre include:

Occasional Care - sessional occasional child care for babies, toddlers and children under school age

Preschool program (Early Learning Centre), DECD funded – 15 hours per week, per child

- Bilingual programs
- Preschool support

Community Groups

- Early Years/Babies play group
- Cultural focus play group
- Multiple Births play group
- Community play groups
- Kinderspiel – Steiner inspired play group
- Fun with Family Music
- My Time – For families with a child with a disability

Parenting and educational programs to support children's development and health, for example

- Circle of Security
- Bringing up great kids
- Healthy eating & cooking for families and children
- Fussy Eaters sessions

Health Services

- Woman's & Children's Hospital Midwife program
- Perinatal links to wellbeing
- Child wellbeing psychologist

Crèche facilities - to support family participation in programs on site.

The Early Learning Centre

A preschool program is offered by the Children's Centre. The Early Learning Centre (preschool program) is open during school terms and offers a quality year of preschool education before children start school. It aims to develop children's strengths and abilities through play-centred activities and to prepare them for entry into the main school once they have attended a year at the Early Learning Centre.

Located centrally on the grounds of the Trinity Gardens School, the Early Learning Centre has its own purpose built building and outside area. The building offers a main play area with carpeted and wet areas, a quiet multi-purpose room, bathroom and kitchen. The Early Learning Centre has its own secure outdoor learning area with playground equipment, sandpit and shed for storing the portable equipment. There is a wide veranda, large trees for shade in the yard and a pergola covering the sandpit.

The Early Years Learning Framework, (2009) describes play as a 'context for learning through which children organise and make sense of their social worlds, as they engage actively with people, objects and representations.'

We are a play centred preschool. Play provides children with the opportunities to investigate their world and to test their knowledge, skills and understanding. Play allows children to be active and interactive. They learn how to form and maintain relationships. During play, children are regularly using higher order thinking skills as they imagine, create, negotiate, problem solve and experiment.

The program is developed from observations of the children's interests and needs and from the national curriculum document, The Early Years Learning Framework. The educators meet regularly to discuss their observations and for future planning. An individual learning plan is created based on these observations and feedback from families.

In order to give our children every opportunity to extend their learning we are fortunate to be able to access school resources and facilities. Some of the resources and facilities we may access are:

- Working with specialist teachers and having access to their skills and knowledge – the Resource Centre teacher and the Science teacher.
- Working with older children on a vast range of learning activities. They become our friends and mentors.
- Working in the Resource Centre with its extensive library of fiction and non-fiction books, math equipment and IT equipment.
- Regular visits to the Portrush Forest to extend our play in a natural environment.
- Visits to the school playgrounds, ovals and Trinity Track.
- Accessing the Play Pods to support our loose parts play.

These experiences help promote an authentic transition between the Early Learning Centre and school.

Centre Based Staff

The Centre is staffed with a Director who works .9 and a Director .1, 3 teachers, a Community Development Coordinator, a Family Services Coordinator, 6 Educators and an Administration Officer.

The Director is responsible to the Principal. All other staff members meet with the Director in the first, and third terms as part of their ongoing Personal Professional Development.