

GOVERNING COUNCIL:

During 2020 the Governing Council comprised 9 members. Due to Covid 19 restrictions throughout the year monthly meetings were often zoom meetings although this was a challenging situation throughout the year the group discussed relevant centre strategic learning directions. After consultation, the Preschool Quality Improvement Plan 2020 for Woodend Children's Centre was formulated with specific goals being set. Throughout the year the Governing Council in consultation with staff discussed resources and facilities to enhance the operation of the centre.

All members worked extremely *hard during the year to achieve our goals.*

Governing Council Office Bearers included:

CHAIR: Sarah Bailey

VICE CHAIRPERSON: Natalie Richards

SECRETARY: Steph Edwards

TREASURER: Kelly Bodger

Members included: Adele Cooper, Louise Noble, Melanie Noble, Nicole Warman and Leanne Branford

Staff representative: rotated between staff members

Director: Emmy Kiriakou

Finance Officer: Emma Lilith

Focus for 2020 include;

- **Financial Viability**
- **National Quality standards**
- **Policies**
- **Outdoor Learning Environment**
- **Curriculum**
- **Parent Information and involvement strategies**



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2020

The Preschool Quality Improvement Plan (PQIP) 2020 had a focus on Literacy and Numeracy. There were 2 goals identified as:

Goal 1 Literacy: Children will choose to engage with a diverse range of text in the learning environment. As educators we were required to critically reflect, plan and provide opportunities for children to engage and make meaning from a diverse range of text then we see children choosing to engage with a diverse range of text. For this to be achieved we would see children accessing text independently, see children using text for their own purpose, in play situations as they interact independently and with others. Educators provided a diverse range of text (fiction and nonfiction) in the reading area that reflected children's interests and modelled reading... As the year progressed more non-fiction, catalogues and children's book maker books, picture books, big books and puppets stories were added to the reading area and other areas inside and outside. Educators encouraged and supported the use of text in children's play in every learning area. These targeted strategies enhanced children's literacy and every child demonstrated improvement throughout a challenging year.

Goal 2 Numeracy: Children will use standard and nonstandard objects and tools to explore, compare and measure in their learning environment. As educators we focussed on using consistent mathematical language for measurement and intentionally programmed for measurement in the play environment. For this to be of value we saw children using objects and tools to measure and compare during their play and observed how children used formal and informal measurement tools to measure and compare in play. As this progressed educators provided multiple opportunities for children to develop info graphs, charts and measurement bags containing formal measurement tools like rulers and tape measures in the environment. These targeted strategies enhanced children's numeracy and every child demonstrated improvement throughout a challenging year.



Woodend Children's Centre
Respect • Equity • Diversity

WOODEND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Learning through play

**Annual Report
Brochure
2020**

Director's Report

MARION COAST PARTNERSHIP

Woodend Children's Centre is a Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) site and belongs to the Marion Coast Partnership of schools and preschools which includes 6 preschools, 7 primary schools and 2 secondary schools. This partnership of school and preschool leaders looks to advance public education in the Hallett Cove, Sheidow, Trott Park, Seacliff, Darlington and Seaview areas.

LOCAL COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION:

Woodend Children's Centre is a full-time service in the DECD Southern Adelaide Region and is located on the southern side of Woodend Primary School. The centre is 22 kilometres from the Adelaide GPO and is in the city of Marion Council. The building and land on which the centre is owned DECD.

CONTEXT

Woodend Children's Centre is in Sheidow Park with most children and families accessing Preschool services from the Sheidow Park and Trott Park areas. The Occasional Care service has families accessing services from a broader catchment including Reynella and Hallett Cove.

Most children from this site continue their education at Woodend Primary School with the others attend local catholic schools like Saint Martin de Porres and St John the Apostle . Some children attend local public schools including Clarendon, Reynella and Aberfoyle Park R-7 schools. The centre continues to work with Woodend Primary School and our other feeder schools to make the transition to school process better for children and families.

Several children also attend the local child care centres, both government and private.

The centre has many two parent families with some blended and single parent families and many parents working full or part-time, or studying at a tertiary institution.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL

Woodend Children's Centre provided Universal Access to preschool that is 15 hours of preschool for children in their eligible year. Occasional Care offered 5 sessions of 2 Under2's and 3 Over 2's which ran concurrently and integrated in the preschool program.

OCCASIONAL CARE PROGRAM

Due to Covid 19 this year and the restrictions applied by the State Government and the Department for Education this program ran at a low utilization rate throughout the year. The attendances rose as the restrictions eased.

The Occasional Care program is a 'now and then' care program which means attendance is based on equity and demand.

ENROLMENTS AND ATTENDANCE

At the beginning of 2020, 53 preschool children started with 1 child exiting to start school at St Martin de Pores Catholic mid-year.

In 2020 attendances for the centre were higher than the state in term 1 and similar in term 3. The Covid 19 restrictions saw a decrease in attendance at the beginning of Term 2 with a slow increase to full attendance by the end of term.

The Director followed up on prolonged absences with parents, emphasising the importance of continual attendance for positive learning outcome for children.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2020:

Term 1 started Covid 19 free and children and parents enjoyed a safe learning environment and were able to participate in a diverse program. Covid 19 restrictions came in place in April before the holidays and had staff planning on-line learning for children while there was a lockdown period. On-line learning continued for many children during the first part of term 2 with programs and activities emailed to families and follow up phone calls by staff to parents about their child's learning. This eased as most children returned to the centre during the latter part of term 2. Terms 3 & 4 had most children attending and had social /physical distancing Covid 19 requirements for parents. This also meant due to the high numbers of parents who congregate during morning delivery and pick up that children were welcomed and departed at the front door with parents socially distanced and waiting. The children became independent and separated easily from their parents. Most parents were positive about this procedure while others felt they by not entering with their children they had a disconnect with the centre. As restrictions lifted and then returned during late term 4 social distancing became a requirement for all gatherings including end of year events and orientation meeting for 2021 children and families.

Only one family member per child was invited to attend. While this was a challenging time most parents accepted the situation and attended the events. The children had a full and interesting programs and a well-planned curriculum covering all Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) learning outcomes. From our reporting and assessment strategies and requirements children's learning was observed to progress so they will enter school as confident and most capable learners.

Program highlights for 2020 included children learning about cultural celebrations. Special events and festivals like Harmony day, Easter, Diwali and Christmas depicted the many stories of Australia to the children .As part our Reconciliation Program we introduced the Kaurna language program to the children which included many songs and games and acknowledgment of country. During NAIDOC week the children and educators discussed the connection to country with the emphasis on the theme ' Always Was Always Will Be'... The Child Protection Program focussed on children's awareness of fair and unfair behaviour, rights and responsibilities and feelings.

Our vegetable garden flourished this year starting with donations of potting mix, fertilizer, seedlings and plants from families, then children planting and watching carrots, beetroot, spinach, potatoes and lettuce grow. Children enjoyed eating variety of salads throughout the year. The children enjoyed and were engaged with Dress up Days and lunches, throughout the year which had themes connected to vegetables in our garden, heroes and crazy hair.

Book Week was celebrated this year with the theme *Curious Creatures Wild Minds*. Children dressed up in an array of wild creatures, super heroes and brought their favourite creature books to Educators read Children's Week shortlisted books. Breakfast at preschool was celebrated with healthy food and children arriving in their pyjamas The Music Program from Caleb Mason of the Musical Muscles taught children about rhythm, beat and rhyme using a variety of instruments and music & movement.

Borrowing from the Nature Education Centre during Term 4 had the children excited about the visiting green frogs, hermit crabs and skinks. These creatures added to our literacy and science program.