

Ellendale Kindergarten



Annual Report 2010

Ellendale kindergarten is situated on the same grounds as Port Pirie West Primary School and joins the Port Pirie Childcare Centre. We are a full time centre and offer playgroup on Monday mornings. Children attending Ellendale Kindergarten are from a diverse range of backgrounds, such as Aboriginal, ESL and a number of our enrolments access support programs, run by our Preschool Support Workers. At Ellendale Kindergarten we accept Early Entry enrolments on recommendation from outside organisations such as Community Health, Environmental Health Centre, Tiny Tots Team etc.

2010 Highlights

- Fun day in the park this year was organised by the staff at Ellendale Kindergarten and was enjoyable day for all.



- Outings and excursions including; Theatre performance 'Sharron Keep ya Hair On', walk to the fire station, visit from Delta Dog Safety Team, visits from Wild Life on Wheels and Life SA education van.
- Regular visits to the Port Pirie West Primary School playgrounds.
- Fundraising efforts including Easter family night raffle, pasty drive, picture plates, obstacle-athon and family photos.



- The implementation of the new national curriculum, The Early Years Learning Framework, Belonging, Being and Becoming.
- Completion of the outside play area with upgrades including fake grass areas, pavers and our fantastic new cubby.
- The announcement that Ellendale Kindergarten will be developed into a Children's Centre.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ellendale community for a fantastic year at kindy. In 2010 staff and families have worked really hard together to achieve goals and provide a valuable learning space for our children. I would like to thank those families who have put in the extra time and effort to support the kindergarten. Without this support Ellendale would no be the beautiful centre it is.

THANKYOU



Preschool staff 2010

Staffing allocation is based on The previous Terms attendance—1.0 Director, 1. Teacher and we received a supplementation to employ a 0.5 ECW for the year. The centre used an attendance grant and preschool support funding to employ support workers.

- Cammie Noonan was employed as the Director.
- Teriri Williams took on the teaching role.
- Lindall Williams was employed as the 0.5 ECW and took long service leave during term 3. Judy Hodson Filled the position while she was away.
- Monique Button was employed for 10 hours a week as an ECW using the attendance grant funding.
- Linda Eberhard and Bek Griffiths were employed throughout 2010 to support individual children and small groups on targeted learning needs. Support workers were funded through preschool support and sight funded priorities.



What we have achieved in 2010

Oral Language

Oral language is the foundation of learning to read and write and is therefore a priority of our learning at Ellendale Kindergarten.

- TROLL (Teacher Rating of Oral Language and Literacy) was used to track Childrens Oral Language development in their first and final terms of kindergarten.
- Staff programmed weekly activities which focus on developing children's oral language.
- Children initiated 'show and tell' which was then incorporated into our daily routine. Children had the opportunity to speak about any topic and develop their oral language skills and confidence.
- Staff attended training sessions ran by Emma Irving (DECS speech pathologist).
- Support for children with oral language delays was given in a range of ways depending on their needs. Children had access to the following support services; speech pathology, preschool intervention funding to provide one on one support, DECS funded support and SERU provided resources to support oral language development.

Recommendations for future planning...

- Developing small group times in which oral language can be focused on in a way appropriate to individual children's needs.
- Develop a borrowing system for families to borrow books and oral language resources, to encourage and support the development of oral language at home.



Attendance

Regular attendance at kindergarten is important for the development of children's social, emotional and oral language skills. We aimed to improve attendance by:

- Identified children who were not attending regularly, investigated reasons and solutions to help improve attendance.
- In accordance with the sites attendance plan an ECW was employed to track attendance, support targeted children and families and over all attendance
- Providing opinions for families to support their child's attendance at Kindergarten including changing sessions, offering full days, and working with families and childcare to ensure Kindergarten was accessible to all families in our community.

Recommendations for future planning...

- Ellendale kindergarten will no longer have the support of an ECW to support attendance due to the end of the attendance grant. Therefore staff will need to develop manageable ways to track children's attendance and identify children at risk.
- Staff to continue to review attendance regularly and develop strategies to support children and families at risk.



Wellbeing

At Ellendale we had a focus on social skills and wellbeing to support the improvement of both oral language and attendance.

- staff programmed for activities which would encourage social play, turn taking and group work.
- Staff focused intentional teaching time on appropriate social skills and group norms and reinforced these ideas during play scenarios.
- Children were assessed using the 'Flinders District Social Skills Checklist'.
- Children at risk were given opportunities to practice social skills during small group activities.
- With the support of the environmental health team children were taught the importance of hand washing.

Recommendations for future planning...

- Continue to encourage the development of social skills with children.
- Review centre policy regarding healthy eating and nutrition. Inform all families of the policy and what is acceptable to send to kindergarten in children's lunchboxes.

Governing Council Achievements

The 2010 Governing Council was made up of five members.

- Governing council were the driving force behind fundraising efforts, and have already put forward some ideas to make future efforts even more successful.
- Developed the idea of making fridge magnets of children's sessions times to help improve attendance.
- Brainstorming communication and feedback methods was another way the Governing Council worked to support the development of relationships between families and kindy.

The support of the governing council members is always appreciated and while at times we have struggled for numbers we are thankful to our dedicated members and look forward to developing an even stronger committee in 2011.

Our Self Review

It was noted during 2010 by both staff and governing council members that we need to develop more effective ways for families to provide feedback to the kindy about how things are going.

- Newsletter items were developed asking for feedback on a wide range of topics. While this method did receive some feedback from families it was only a small number of families who choose to use it.
- Parent opinion surveys were not successful with only 6 out of 53 surveys being returned. While the feedback from the surveys were quite positive it was not a large enough sample of our community.
- Centre designed parent opinion surveys were developed and families were encouraged to complete these. While again there were some responses, many families did not provide feedback.



Recommendations for future planning...

As Ellendale Kindergarten is due to be validated during 2010, developing parent friendly feedback opportunities and ways for families to engage in the development of the centre would be beneficial for all involved. This will also be essential as Ellendale Kindergarten moves forward in the development of the Children Centre.

What People Think of us

Due to the lack of responses of the parent opinion surveys (6 responses) we decided to provide families with another opportunity to give feedback to us about how things are going at Ellendale Kindergarten. After sending out a 1 page parent survey we received a further 7 responses. We received positive responses in many areas and had some areas for development.

Feedback includes:

“Plenty of communication, requests followed up, happy and friendly staff.”

“We find that (at times) our child is not pushed enough to further extend her existing skills (ie.writing). Goal setting is also something that we have not been involved in.”



“I feel Ellendale Kindergarten caters for everyone child’s needs and there are always different opportunity to be involved in your child’s education.”

“I love the artwork, photos and learning activities.”

“I like how they include every child equally.”

Recommendations for future planning...

- Introduce individual learning plans in which children, parents and teachers in consultation develop learning goals for children.
- Introduce mid-kindergarten reports and further develop final reports in line with the Early Years Learning Framework.
 - Develop our parent information board to clearly communicate information about our kindy program and learning experiences.



Meeting our accountability requirements...

Enrolment and Attendance Data

As our attendance and enrolment numbers have decreased Ellendale Kindergarten has lost its 0.5 ECW entitlement for 2011. In Term 1 the predicted enrolment numbers are enough to regain our ECW entitlement, however attendance of our enrolled children will need to improve for this to be successful.

	2008				2009				2010			
<i>Terms</i>	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<i>Attendance</i>	764	779	754	765	720	733	760	778	794	820	793	809
<i>Enrolments</i>	896	894	894	899	849	837	888	913	933	930	917	928

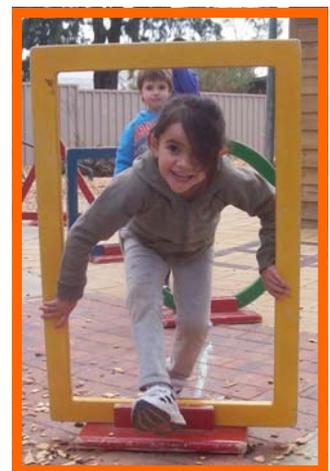
Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Enrolment and Attendance Data

	2008				2009				2010			
<i>Terms</i>	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<i>Attendance</i>	N/A	49	N/A	29	N/A	42	N/A	41	N/A	48	N/A	55
<i>Enrolments</i>	65	56	48	45	60	54	55	56	57	56	58	57

Recommendations for future planning...

As Ellendale Kindertens attendance is an ongoing issue, it is recommended that staff, Governing Council, and families continue to work together to improve attendance at Kindergarten. This could be done in a number of ways:

- Staff could investigate the possibility of offering full day sessions to all families (currently only offered to rural entry and children in their last Term of kindy).
- Governing Council and staff could investigate ways to communicate the importance of regular attendance at Kindergarten to our local community.



- Governing Council and staff could develop a range of ways in which to engage children, families and the wider community with our Kindergarten.

Financial report attached...