Centre number: 6603
Centre name: Ardrossan & Districts Community Kindergarten

1. General information

- Centre name
  Ardrossan & Districts Community Kindergarten
- Centre number
  6603
- Preschool Director
  Jane Klaebe
- Postal address
  1 West Terrace ARDROSSAN 5571
- Location address
  Corner of West Terrace and Maitland Road ARDROSSAN 5571
- Telephone number
  08-8837 3284
- Fax number
  08-8837 4007
- Website address
  www.ardrossankgn.sa.edu.au
- e-mail address
  kindy.director@ardrossankgn.sa.edu.au
- DECs District
  Yorke and Mid North
- Geographical location
  150km from GPO
- Enrolment/Attendance
  14 eligible enrolments; 3 pre-entry enrolments at Term 1 2012
- Co-located/stand-alone
  Stand-alone
- Programs operating
  - Pre Entry - Pre-entry program operates for one session on a Thursday morning/afternoon for children who will commence their “eligible” year of preschool the following term. Sessions are integrated into preschool sessions.
  - Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children - 5 sessions per week currently offered as full days on Tuesdays and Thursdays with lunch time care and Wednesdays half day
  - Occasional Care - Funded Occasional Care is offered to children 6 months – 5 years. Children may attend 1 session per week. At present sessions are offered on Thursdays: 1 session for under 2 years and Fridays 1 session for over 2 years and under 2 years in the morning
  - Early Entry and Extended enrolment - This may be negotiated when additional time is likely to significantly improve a child’s learning and developmental outcomes.
  - Bilingual Support - No
2. **Key Centre Policies**

- **Vision Statement** – Children will gain the skill to be motivated, social and confident members of the community. The kindergarten will provide a play-based, nurturing environment that will foster children’s love of learning.
- **Values** – respect, happiness, individuality, self worth and trust.
- **Centre Philosophy** – As Early Childhood Educators we recognise and value parents as their child’s most important educators – no-one knows more about your child than you do. Our role is to provide an extension of your care and education. By communicating with each other and working together we can enhance your child’s development.
- **Site Improvement Plan (2010):**
  - Professional Learning and Leadership: professional learning enables educators and families to increase the engagement and achievement of all literacy learners.
  - Information Sharing: children’s learning is optimised when positive and informed relationships exist between the home, kindergarten and staff.
  - Children’s Sense of Identity: when children have a strong sense of identity they ‘grow in confidence to explore and learn’.

3. **Curriculum**

- **Framework used:** National Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) – Being, Becoming, Belonging
- **Specific curriculum approaches**
  - Commitment to learning through play and first-hand experiences.
  - In 2008 the introduction of the DECS Child Protection Curriculum
  - In 2007 the introduction of the ‘You Can Do It’ program – a social-emotional learning curriculum for ages 4-6 years.
  - A regular routine that provides whole group, small group and individual learning opportunities with uninterrupted periods that permit children to develop their self-initiated play.
  - Formal reporting begins in the child’s first term during an interview with parents and assessment by the EYLF Developmental Learning Outcomes (DLO’s). An Individual Learning Plan is created in partnership with the parents. The DLO’s are part of the final Summative Report in the fourth term which also includes the child’s input.
  - The DECS Self Review process is ongoing. The site was successfully validated in June 2010.
- **Joint programmes/special curriculum projects**
  - Children use the School/Community Library service at Ardrossan Area School fortnightly. The Community Librarian reads a group story and children borrow books.
  - The kindergarten children visit the Ardrossan Dinham ward residents each term to share a story and songs.

4. **Centre Based Staff**

- **Staff Profile**
  - Contract Director – 0.5 PSD1 with additional 0.1 Occasional Care and 0.1 Universal Access
  - 3 Early Childhood Workers contract – 0.5, 8 hours & 3.5 hours
  - 1 Preschool Support Worker (casual) – hours vary each term – currently 9.5 hours
- **Performance Management Program**
  - The Regional Director (Yorke and Mid North) is Line Manager for the Director. Performance Management for the ECW is the Director’s responsibility and is developed and reviewed each term.
• **Access to special support staff**
  Support staff for preschool children is funded through the Early Assistance programs and the DECS Support Services. Specialist staff are based at the DECS Kadina Office.
  Agencies such as the Northern Yorke Health Service and Yorkids also provide support for special needs children.

• **Other**
  Staff attend termly staff meetings which include OHS&W and Self Review discussions.
  Management allocates funds for staff training and development.
  The Director attends the Yorke & Mid North Leadership Days each term to share knowledge and network with other leaders in the Region.

5. **Centre Facilities**

• **Buildings and grounds**
  Ardrossan Kindergarten was built as a community initiative and opened on this site in 1967. The main building comprises a large activity room, the kitchen and bathroom. Extensions in 1982 added an office and a storage area. The main room has an acoustic ceiling.
  A large pergola was added to the front of the building in 1990 (approx) and provides an attractive all-weather learning area. Safety mesh was installed under the polycarb roofing in 2005 and exterior painting was completed in 2005 through the School Pride initiative. At present contractors are being sought to enclose the majority of the verandah with shade blinds.
  The kitchen was upgraded in 2002 and an approved baby-change area was installed in 2003.
  The outdoor learning area is spacious and bounded by a safety fence and galvanised iron fencing. The yard is 50% bark chips and 50% lawn which is watered by an automatic watering system. We have several large shady trees.
  There are 3 sheds that accommodate play equipment and gardening/cleaning supplies. The sand area is covered by a shade.
  In 2004 a new swing set was installed and a cedar cubby house was added to the play equipment.
  In 2006 a new ship style outdoor play structure was installed.

• **Capacity (per session)**
  Ardrossan is a Category 2 Centre with a staff to child ratio of 1:11. 22 children can be accommodated in the building.

• **Centre Ownership**
  The building is owned by DECS.
  The land is owned by the District Council of Yorke Peninsula and dedicated to DECS.

• **Access for children and staff with disabilities**
  There are ramps into the building. Lever taps were installed into the bathroom in 2006.

• **Other**
  Two school buses service the area and are available for 4 year old children.
  The Child and Youth Health nurse provides a free Health Check for all children before they start school.

6. **Local Community:**

• **General characteristics:**
  Ardrossan is a service town and a port on the eastern coast of Yorke Peninsula. The population is approximately 1200 and prospects of growing due to the recent release of over 40 blocks subdivision and future possibility of a copper mine being established. It is a popular retirement town and is the largest town in the local Council area.
  Tourism contributes to the town's economy.
  OneSteel operates a dolomite mine to the south of the town. Viterra operates the silo complex and jetty, and Cheetham Salt has salt harvesting and processing works at Price, north of Ardrossan. These are the major industries in the area.
  Many townspeople are employed in businesses and there is a thriving farm economy. Crop production is the main land use and is supported by sheep and cattle farming.
All kindergarten families have English as their first language.

- **Parent and community involvement in the preschool**
  Ardrossan Kindergarten is locally managed and has an active Governing Council. Parents and extended family members support the kindergarten in many ways including a voluntary cleaning roster during the week. The Governing Council has a shared Financial Services Agreement with Ardrossan Area School and employs a cleaner and a groundsperson.

- **Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool**
  Most children go to Ardrossan Area School, with a few children transferring to the Lutheran School at Maitland.

- **Other local care and educational facilities**
  Child and Youth Health run a regular clinic for babies at the Ardrossan Health Centre on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month. The School Dental Service at Maitland is a free service for children who are dependants of a Centrelink Concession Card or School Card holder. For other children a fee applies for each general course of dental care.
  
  Family Day Care is accessed through the Maitland office.
  
  CYP Gym Jams (Kindergym) operates in the school gymnasium on Tuesday mornings.

- **Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities**
  Major industries are OneSteel (dolomite mine), Viterra (grain silos) and Cheetham Salt at Price, about 17kms north of Ardrossan (salt production).
  
  There are 2 caravan parks.
  
  The community has good shopping facilities including an IGA/Foodland store, a computer shop, a Post Office, 2 op-shops, a variety shop, men’s, women and children’s clothing shop, 2 hardware stores, a newsagency, 3 real estate agencies, 2 hotels, 2 garages, a roadhouse, a bakery, a butcher, floor coverings shop, 3 hairdressers, a take-away food shop, a bank (and 2 bank agencies), marine shop and servicing and a museum.

- **Other local facilities**
  Services include a private hospital, aged care facilities, 4 doctors, 2 dentists, a volunteer ambulance service, CFS, an Area School and 2 police officers.
  
  The town has a strong tradition in sporting activities. Tennis, cricket, football, netball, hockey, basketball, golf, lawn bowls, darts are all available.

- **Availability of staff housing**
  Some government housing available.

- **Accessibility to Adelaide**
  There is a regular bus service to Adelaide daily.

- **Local Government body**
  District Council of Yorke Peninsula – Principal office is at Maitland – ph 08 8832 0000, fax 8853 2494.
  
  Website address is www.yorke.sa.gov.au

7. **Further Comments**