

Transition to school

Through Negotiated Educational Plan (NEP) meetings families are provided with processes and timelines that support the transition to school. Children within the Inclusive Preschool Program may go on to a wide variety of schooling options, including; special educational options and mainstream classrooms.

An Educational Psychologist from DECD observes the child, undertakes an assessment and collects information from; families, other professionals supporting the child, and staff within the program. This information is collated and a recommendation regarding an appropriate school setting is made. Through negotiations with families and other educational personnel the pathway to school begins to unfold.

Inclusive Preschool program

Staff:

Director of Education and Care

Lawrina Osbourne

Teachers

Megan Noack (Mon Tue, alt Wednesdays)

Philipa Reimers (alt Wednesdays, Thurs, Fri)

Early Childhood Workers

Cathy King (Mon, Tue, alt Wednesday)

Wendy Bubner (alt Wednesday, Thurs, Fri)

Sessions: 9am to 3pm (5 days a fortnight)

Monday and Tuesday **OR** Thursday and Friday

And alternate Wednesdays.

Elsie Ey Children's Centre

Elsie Ey Children's Centre has a total capacity of 120 children with a maximum of 60 children per session. The centre is located within the suburb of Hewett, within the city of Gawler.

Children within the Inclusive Preschool Program have access to at least 2 dedicated staff, a teacher with a 4 year university Early Childhood Education Qualification and an Early Childhood Worker Level 2 with proven experience and knowledge. The program has a dedicated space that can be used in a flexible way and provides children with a 'home base'.

Children within the program have the opportunity to develop relationships with children and staff from across the centre. Parts of the day are dedicated to individualised learning while other times of the day provide opportunities for peer relationships and authentic social interactions.

We are proud to be able to offer a specialised learning program, providing children and their families with a setting that meets their individualised needs.

Contact Details

Elsie Ey Children's Centre

Kingfisher Drive, Hewett

(co-located with the Hewett Primary School)

Phone: 08 8522 1900

Email: dl.2622.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au



Elsie Ey
**Children's
Centre**
for Early Childhood
Development and Parenting

**Elsie Ey
Children's
Centre
Inclusive
Preschool
Program**



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Elsie Ey Children's Centre, as part of the State-wide Inclusive Pre-school Program, provides 2 specialised programs for a total of 12 children who have a significant global developmental delay including a significant cognitive delay. The programs run for 12 months prior to school commencement. (6 children per program)

Preschool Program

Our program is based on the principles of the Early Years Learning Framework Curriculum and acknowledges individual children and their families.

This curriculum is implemented within a play based learning environment, which is designed to support the access and participation of all children. Current knowledge of early childhood education, development and methodology underpin educators practices.

Learning experiences are planned based upon observations, anecdotal recordings, children's individual interests and assessments and reports provided by other professionals. Staff discussions framed around individual children and their family's perspectives, priorities and individual learning goals also influence planning. In addition, a focus for the program continues to be centred around sensory based learning. Children access a variety of experiences and equipment which assist them to achieve a calm-alert state, including hammocks, vibrating tubes, pressure vests etc.

The staff at Elsie Ey work within a multi disciplinary team framework. Therapy staff from

other agencies come into the centre by negotiation and work alongside preschool staff to provide input that ensures a balanced curriculum for all children.

Negotiated Education Plan

All children who attend this program at Elsie Ey will have a Negotiated Education Plan that is relevant, appropriate and reviewed regularly. This process allows parents, staff, and other agencies to meet and consider the individualised learning program in place for the child. At these meetings open, honest, compassionate communication ensures educational plans are negotiated, documented and reviewed.

Health/Access Services

In addition to a range of developmentally appropriate preschool experiences, staff implement structured programs to assist children's independence with toileting/self care and eating/drinking. Children with complex invasive health care needs, can be assisted by Health support Officers employed by Child & Youth Health and trained and accredited by DHCSS (Disability Health Care Support Services). These children have a Health Care Plan that is put in place by DHCSS and is followed to ensure full access and participation for all children at the centre. Other health care needs are managed by the DECD staff with a documented Health Support Plan.

Family Involvement

We understand that beginning preschool can be a challenging time for families. We also appreciate that being able to feel connected to the centre can support families who might be finding the transition to preschool difficult. Family involvement can look

very different dependant upon individual interests. Some possibilities for family participation include: excursions, preschool events, Governing Council, supporting learning experiences, sharing a talent, skill or hobby with the children, and additional children centre programs.

Referral and Enrolment

Referrals may be made by families themselves, or other agencies (with the family's consent) eg Health Professionals, Private Providers and DECD Staff.

We recommend families interested in enrolment make an appointment with the Director and visit, we are happy for referring professional to join the family for a visit. The referral process is supported by the provision of professional reports and assessments. Any documentation that provides additional information regarding a child's diagnosis or identifies a child's developmental history is of value within the referral process. All referrals are seen by a Placement Panel which comprises of the Director and support staff from DECD, which often includes an Educational Psychologist and Special Educator. The information is used to determine if this program is the most appropriate placement for the child. Families are informed of the outcomes from the placement panel via phone and with a follow up letter.

Children eligible to attend this program attend for 30 hours a fortnight, 2 days one week and 3 days the next week, 9am till 3pm, during school terms.