



Annual Report

2011

Stirling District Kindergarten

About Stirling District Kindergarten

The kindergarten is located in the beautiful Adelaide Hills approximately 20 kms from Adelaide.

Kindergarten sessions are offered for children for one year prior to starting school. Sessions are negotiated with parents with the option of full days or half days.

A playgroup is operated on Friday mornings by a paid coordinator. This has helped the kindergarten numbers grow.

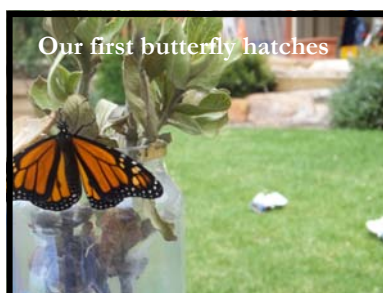
We strive to ensure that our Centre is a focal point for the community, providing high quality services in which parents are intrinsically valued and contribute to the needs and well being of our families. We aim to provide a safe, caring, supportive learning environment for children in their earliest years.

Overview

2011 began with lower numbers than 2010. This was primarily due to parents choosing other centres that offered two full days of kindergarten. This prompted us to review how we could also offer two full days from term 2 and we increased our lunchtime program to cater for up to 25 children. This resulted in over 50% of our families accessing two full days. Our numbers remained consistent in the mid 50's for the year.

The staff team committed to a focus on Assessment in the Early Years which gave us training and opportunities to reflect and review our current practice. Our focus was to make assessment more meaningful to our reporting practices and to give children the skills to reflect on their own learning. This was then linked to The Early Years Learning Framework, "Belonging, Being and Becoming". Staff developed a new format for programming which incorporated the children's brainstorming to maximize engagement levels of children.

The staff team also began work on meeting the new National Quality Standards through two pupil free days and during staff meetings. Planning for Universal Access took a priority towards the end of the year and staff worked with the Governing Council and parents so the program can be implemented in 2012.



Our first butterfly hatches



The Community Service Working Party



Grooving at the disco



The Art Show

Focus on Learning: To improve learning and wellbeing outcomes for children in the early years using the Early Years Learning Framework, "Belonging, Being, Becoming".

Our program this year focused on developing skills across all curriculum areas incorporating the Learning Outcomes with a major focus each term in a specified learning area.

Term 1 Identity & Child Protection

Term 2 Music, Dance, Motor skills and the Arts

Term 3 Literacy

Term 4 Numeracy and Science

Parents were kept informed of the children's learning through the curriculum displays in the sunroom and through the curriculum update in the fortnightly newsletter. We used a lot of digital photos to share children's learning. Parents have been very supportive of children learning through a play based curriculum and have given us feed positive feedback about the

curriculum information provided in the newsletters, our learning displays and interim reports.

Parent participation continued to be strong within the program with parents sharing skills, volunteering in our Community Service Program, supporting us on excursions, local walks, cooking with the children, sharing musical instruments, participating in the special event days, engaging with the literacy program through borrowing literacy kits and library books and joining in everyday kindy life. This has had a significant impact of the quality of engagement from our children.

Through the program we focussed on our outdoor environment and garden. We enjoyed many harvests from our vegetable garden which were

tasty. We maintained our Community Service Program introduced in 2010 in caring for the gardens around the Stirling CFS station, our newspaper recycling program and our recycling of food scraps to families with chooks.

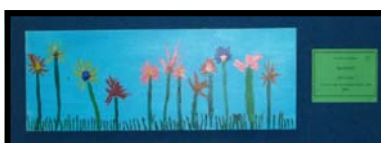
Our communication with parents improved with the introduction of emailing newsletters and information in May. At the end of the year we had 100% of families receiving information this way. This has lead to a quick response from parents and given many working parents the opportunity to gain and provide valuable shared information.



Highlights of 2011

Highlights have included learning events linked to the children's curriculum such as Cleland, Art Gallery of SA, Patch Theatre, CFS, the Stirling Pageant and seeing the Crafers Primary School pantomime. Special visitors such as Delta Dogs, Foot Steps Dance classes, Police, SAAS, Sue Harris, CSIRO, Indigenous musicians, African dancers and drummers and our Japanese Support Worker have enriched the learning for the children and staff to build upon. Our dance lessons came to a finale with a Disco which was attend by over 90% of families. The children danced the hour away as parents watched on delighted by their own child's coordination and groove to dances such as "Walk the Dinosaur".

The children experimented with many forms of paint media after visiting the SA Art Gallery which culminated in each child producing their own inspired canvas for the Art Show. This year our combined works of art were eagerly sought after at the auction with "Gerbera's" being sold for \$295.00 at the end of the evening. Our literacy focus in term 3 was a wonderful experience for children, parents and teachers. The children enjoyed our weekly focus stories and exploring them in many forms. Our science program was enriched by the CSIRO visiting who were impressed with the children's science and math skills and knowledge. The introduction of a maths or science tool as a mystery object engaged the children weekly.



Targeted Resources

Our major purchase for the year was the Just IT Solutions Touch Screen Computer with a web cam, document viewer, wireless keyboard and wireless internet. This resource has given the children the opportunity to share and view their work on a big screen, view internet data, develop touch screen skills and has enhanced their learning as well as the teachers presentation of new information to the children. We continue to value the learning children gain from animals and resources from the Nature Education Centre and we spent \$488.18 to support this. \$1616.68 was spent on other curriculum areas including Living Eggs, CSIRO, numeracy and science resources. We funded \$1046.10 towards literacy resources. An additional \$2572.18 was spent on general equipment purchases covering outdoor play, home corner, blocks and construction, puzzles, music, cooking, manipulative tools. Our centre is well resourced and this is due to the support of our families and their fundraising efforts. WELL DONE.

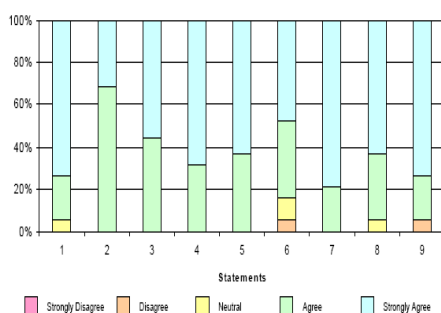
KINDERGARTEN PERFORMANCE DATA REQUIREMENTS

Parent Opinion Survey

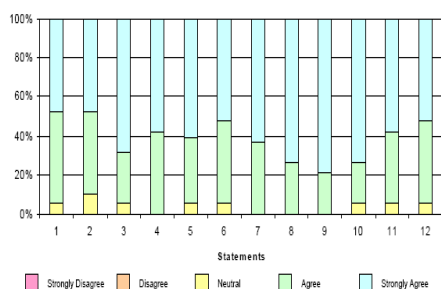
19 parents completed The Parent Survey. Results indicate that the majority of the parents are happy with the programs and services at the kindergarten.

Aggregation of Preschool Survey Responses

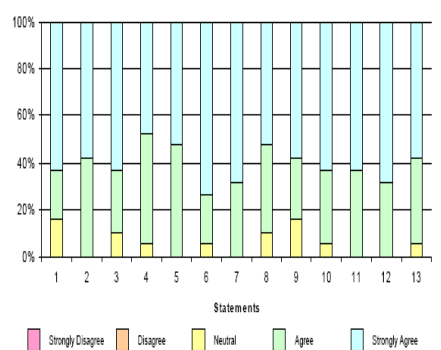
Parent Opinion - Quality of Teaching and Learning



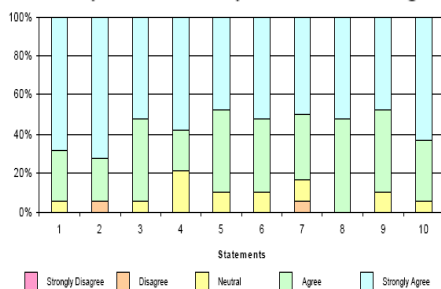
Parent Opinion - Support of Learning



Parent Opinion - Relationships and Communication



Parent Opinion - Leadership and Decision Making



Parental comments

Quality of teaching and learning:

A very happy preschool.

Due to her positive and supportive experiences at SDK, my child is confident and enthusiastic about starting school. I believe it has provided her with important skills required to succeed on her educational journey. All the teachers have been highly supportive towards our entire family, providing consistent and sincere advice and comfort with particular changes during our time here.

Support of Learning

A very happy preschool.

All staff care, offer support, display respect and a sincere approach to children and parents.

My daughter felt supported and secure with teaching staff.

Relationships and communication:

This preschool has a welcoming family like environment which the children clearly respond. This is to be credited to all the staff involved at Stirling District Kindergarten.

Other Comments

A very good experience x 3 children 2004—2011

My daughter enjoyed her time at this preschool very much.

All comments collated from parent surveys 2011.

Summary

Overall the parent survey results indicate the majority of parents are very satisfied with the quality of service delivery and standards at the kindergarten. Staff will continue to maintain the high level of quality programs, services and relationships by responding to the needs of families and the community and through working in partnership with the Governing Council and parents.

Total Enrolments by Term

2009 - 2011

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2009	57	62	64	66
2010	72	76	67	67
2011	53	54	54	54

Attendance Percentages 2009 - 2011

Attendance Percentages				
Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2009 Centre	91.2	95.2	93.8	93.9
2010 Centre	87.5	92.1	95.5	91
2011 Centre	96.2	96.3	88.9	88.9
2009 State	87.2	87.8	86.1	86.8
2010 State	88.8	90.3	88	88.2
2011 State	89.9	89.1	88.4	89.6

Based on attendances recorded in the two week reference period each term and calculated to an average adjusted daily attendance. Excludes pre-entry.

Note: Figures have been revised for previous years. Source Preschool Data Collection, Data Management.





KINDERGARTEN PERFORMANCE DATA REQUIREMENTS

We have maintained good relationships with all our feeder schools with staff visiting our site prior to children transitioning to school. Some children have received additional support from preschool staff to ensure the transition is successful. This has involved staff visiting school sites with children and supporting parents by developing learning stories which have been used at home to familiarise the child with the new environment and routines.

Feeder Schools				
Site number - Name	Type	2009	2010	2011
0107 - Crafers Primary School	Govt.	38.9	37.3	49
0176 - Heathfield Primary School	Govt.	3.4	1.5	4
0396 - Scott Creek Primary School	Govt.	1.7	1.5	2
0413 - Stirling East Primary School	Govt.	27.1	22.3	11
0448 - Upper Sturt Primary School	Govt.	5.1	7.5	
0495 - Woodside Primary School	Govt.		1.5	
0636 - Bridgewater Primary School	Govt.			2
8050 - Seymour College	Non-Govt.		1.5	
8052 - Prince Alfred College	Non-Govt.			2
8072 - St Peter's College	Non-Govt.		1.5	
8090 - Walford Anglican School for Girls	Non-Govt.			2
8250 - Loreto College	Non-Govt.	1.7		
8266 - Mercedes College	Non-Govt.	1.7		
8374 - Pembroke School	Non-Govt.			2
9079 - St Catherine's Stirling Cath Par Sch	Non-Govt.	16.9	23.8	22
9096 - St Michael's Lutheran Primary School	Non-Govt.	3.4	1.5	
9402 - Sunrise Christian School	Non-Govt.			2
Total		99.9	99.9	98



Prepared by
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Stirling District Kindergarten 2011