



CONTEXT STATEMENT

Updated:

Centre number: 1625

Centre name: Trinity Gardens Children's Centre and
Early Learning Centre

The Children's Centre

The Trinity Gardens Children's Centre is located on the Trinity Gardens School site overlooking a large grassed oval and up to the Adelaide Hills. The Centre is built and has spaces for children and parents for play, learning and meeting including its own outdoor learning area. It is flooded with natural light and fresh air.

At the Trinity Gardens Children's Centre, qualified early childhood staff, work together with families, to provide quality learning programs and care to support children's development, health, education and well-being.

The Centre is a friendly place and welcome families to meet, learn more about parenting, gain advice and information on health, personal and family support.

There is a strong connection between the Children's Centre and the school. This makes transition from the Centre, to the school much easier for both parents and children. The School Principal and the Centre Director have a close working relationship and share a common commitment to children and their families.

Our school community is committed to creating an environment conducive to learning. We recognise the uniqueness of every child and support them as a learner to develop resilience, optimism, skills, confidence and social responsibility for them to achieve their full potential. Our values are respect, responsibility and learning.

As part of the School, the Principal, Director and the Governing Council lead the Centre. The Principal, with the Centre staff, oversee the day to day running of the

programmes. The Governing Council, in consultation with the staff, is responsible for the governance of the centre.

A preschool programme is offered by the Children's Centre. The Early Learning Centre is open during school terms and offers a quality year of preschool education before children start school. It aims to develop children's strengths and abilities through play-centred activities and to prepare them for entry into the main school once they have attended four terms at the Early Learning Centre.

The Early Learning Centre

Located centrally on the grounds of the Trinity Gardens School, the Early Learning Centre has its own purpose built building and outside area. The building offers a main play area with carpeted and wet areas, a quiet multi-purpose room, bathroom and kitchen. The Early Learning Centre has its own secure outdoor learning area with playground equipment, sandpit and shed for storing the portable equipment. There is a wide verandah, large trees for shade in the yard and a pergola covering the sandpit.

The Early Years Learning Framework, (2009) describes play as a 'context for learning through which children organise and make sense of their social worlds, as they engage actively with people, objects and representations.'

We are a play centred preschool. Play is as vital to the child's development as is nutrition, health and shelter. Play provides children with the opportunities to investigate their world and to test their knowledge, skills and understanding. Play allows children to be active and interactive. They learn how to form and maintain relationships. During play, children are regularly using higher order thinking skills as they imagine, create, negotiate, problem solve and experiment.

The program is developed from professional observations and the national curriculum document, The Early Years Learning Framework. is displayed on the notice board each week.

In order to give our children every opportunity to extend their learning we are fortunate to be able to access school resources and facilities. Some of the resources and facilities we may access are:

- Working with specialist teachers and having access to their skills and knowledge – the Resource Centre teacher and the Italian and Instrumental Music teachers.
- Working with an older class on a vast range of learning activities. They become our friends and mentors.
- Working in the Resource Centre with its extensive library of fiction and non-fiction books, math equipment, IT equipment and bank of computers.
- Participating in lunchtime play with the older students in our outdoor learning area.

These experiences help promote an authentic transition between the Early Learning Centre and school.

1. General information

Director

Ms Rowena Tennant

Postal address and location

Trinity Gardens Children's Centre
Trinity Gardens School
160 Portrush Road
Trinity Gardens SA 5067

Please enter from Devitt Avenue

DECD Region

Eastern Adelaide Region

Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km)

7.5 Kms East from GPO

Telephone number

School 08 8431 4170
Children's Centre 08 8333 2557

Fax number

8332 3041

Children's Centre website

Online information is accessed through a link on the Trinity Gardens School website :

www.trinitygps.sa.edu.au

Children's Centre email address

rowena.tennant@trinitygps.sa.edu.au

Enrolment/Attendance

The preschool programme has approximately 40 children attending on each day. There are four staff members working with the children during the day.

Programs operating from the Children's Centre

A preschool programme is offered from the Early Learning Centre. The 15 hours of preschool education is offered as two groups. The Blue group attends on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings. The Gold Group attends Wednesday afternoons, Thursdays and Fridays.

Where possible, two Transition to preschool visits are offered to children in the term prior to their entry into the preschool programme

Extended care is offered to children at the discretion of the Disability Coordinator after consultation with Centre staff.

Bilingual support is applied for and accessed as needed

Preschool support is accessed as needed at the discretion of the Disability Coordinator after consultation with Centre staff.

An occasional care programme is offered in the Children's Centre.

4. Centre Based Staff

The Centre is staffed with a Director, 2 teachers, a Community Development Coordinator, 6 Educators and 2 parttime Administration Officer

The Director is responsible to the Principal. All other staff members meet with the Director in the first, second and third terms.

Support staff is accessed on a needs basis

The Australian Breastfeeding Association is a resident partner in the Children's Centre. Other partnerships have been formed with MyTime, Child and Family Health Service with Getting to know your baby.

The Children's Centre has a close relationship with the school. Teaching staff meet regularly with school early years teachers

