1. General information

- Centre name: Solomontown Kindergarten
- Centre number: 6666
- Preschool Director: Bridie Hickey
- Postal address: Prince Street, Port Pirie, 5540
- Location address: As above
- Telephone number: 8632 3800
- Fax number: 8633 2576
- e-mail address: kindy.director@solomonkgn.sa.edu.au
- DECS District: Yorke and Mid North
- Geographical location – ie road distance from GPO (km): 220 km north of the GPO on the Spencer Gulf.
- Enrolment/Attendance: Enrolments are around 35. Attendances tend to be between 70-75% of enrolments. Up to 20% of the children enrolled identify as Aboriginal
- Co-located/stand-alone: Solomontown Kindergarten is a stand-alone centre
- Programs operating
  - Pre Entry: Pre-entry children are integrated into normal sessions
Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children
: We are a part time centre and offer the following sessions-
   - Tuesday (AM session-) 9:00am- 12pm, (PM session-) 12:00pm- 3:00pm.
   - Wednesday 9:00am- 12:00pm
   - Thursday (AM session-) 9:00am- 12pm, (PM session-) 12:00pm- 3:00pm.
(Eligible children attend for 5 sessions a week for 4 terms before they start school)

Occasional Care (indicate whether funded or unfunded)
: Unfunded Occasional Care is offered at the discretion of the director.

Extended Care
: We do not offer extended care

Lunch/Full Day Program
: We offer a full day program with lunch care on Tuesdays.

Bilingual Support
: We currently have no Bilingual Support Program, as there is not a need. We have offered this program in the past.

Preschool Support
: A preschool support program is offered to all eligible children. Approximately 30% of our children are a part of this program which is subject to needs and available funding. Early Intervention funding is also used to implement programs for children who require extra support but may not qualify for Preschool Support.

2. Key Centre Priorities
: From attached Site Learning Plan:

3. Curriculum
• Framework used: SACSA
• Core Values
: We believe that:
  • each child is a unique individual and brings to our program a wealth of knowledge, understandings and skills. He/she should feel that his/her family and culture are respected and valued in the curriculum.
  • young children learn best through play and in an environment where they have the opportunity to influence their own learning. They should have the opportunity to take risks and be challenged, but still feel safe.
  • Parents are partners in the learning process and should be encouraged to contribute at whatever level they feel comfortable. They
should be kept informed of, and contribute to, their child’s learning and development through appropriate assessment and reporting strategies

- Staff should develop positive and cooperative relationships with parents and ensure that our curriculum is culturally and socially inclusive. They should model positive language, tolerance and empathy in interactions with children, parents and each other.

- To provide a quality curriculum, staff should continuously engage in critically reflective teaching practice. Staff should also develop strategic assessment and reporting practices, which acknowledge the important role of parents and empower children to become influential players in their own learning.

- Specific curriculum approaches
  - Curriculum is designed around a constructivist, play-based approach.

- Joint programmes/special curriculum projects
  - We work closely with Solomontown Primary School on transitioning children to school using a ‘Buddy’ system.
  - We are a Universal Preschool site which means we offer 15 hours of preschool per week (5 sessions).
  - All children undertake a Speech and Language Screening during their first term of full time preschool. Children are then referred onto the Speech Pathologist and Disability Services as required.

4. Centre Based Staff

- Staff Profile:
  - Director – 0.6
  - Teacher – 0.6
  - ECW – 0.6

- Performance Management Program
  - Performance Management Meetings are held formally once per term or as required. Performance Plans are designed considering the staff persons individual needs as well as the site, district and state priorities.

- Access to special support staff
  - Access to special support staff is available at Yorke and Mid North Regional Office in the following areas:
    - Special Education
    - Behaviour Management
    - Hearing Impairment
    - Speech Pathology
    - Guidance
  - Services in Occupational Therapy are accessed through the local Community Health Centre.
DECS Social Worker is accessed from Adelaide
Port Pirie Central Mission has Family Support Workers and Counsellors
Support services are coordinated through the local Child Development Unit, including input from the Paediatrician.

- Other
  - We employ an Aboriginal Early Childhood Worker.
  - TAFE and University Students studying for Early Childhood qualifications regularly seek Work Experience at Solomontown Kindergarten, as do students from the two local secondary schools.

5. Centre Facilities
- Buildings and grounds
  - The centre was purpose built about 25 years ago. It is aesthetically quite pleasing with a large outdoor area. This has 2 sandpits with an artificial watercourse in one, a large shade structure, amphitheatre, play platform and climbing area, swings and a rubber softfall area under shade. We also have a bike track around the perimeter of the yard.
  - Capacity (per session)
    - 41
- Centre Ownership
  - The centre is government owned.
- Access for children and staff with disabilities
  - There is no purpose built access for children and staff with disabilities as yet.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)
- General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments)
  - Port Pirie is a regional city which services a rural area. The leading employer is the Nyrstar Lead Smelter. There are well-established Italian and Greek communities and a growing Muslim community.
- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
  - Parents tend to feel very loyal to the kindergarten and Solomontown in general. Many themselves attended the primary and/or kindergarten. Their support may come in the form of assisting during sessions and on excursions, helping with fundraisers and a number who help with the cleaning of the kindy and maintenance of the grounds. We encourage the involvement of the Aboriginal community and various local businesses.
- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
  - Solomontown Primary School
  - Risdon Park Primary School
St. Mark’s Catholic School
Port Germein Primary School
Occasionally a child transfers to Port Pirie West Primary School, Airdale Primary School or Napperby Primary School.

- Other local care and educational facilities, eg child care, schools, OSHC
  - Community Childcare Centre
  - Family Day Care Providers
  - Early Learning Program
  - Family Day Care Office and program
  - 4 kindergartens
  - 4 Public Primary Schools
  - 1 Public High School
  - Catholic R-12 school on 2 campuses
  - Small Christian R-8 school
  - Spencer Institute of TAFE, Port Pirie Campus
  - OSHC Program

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities
  - 2 major supermarkets (Coles and Woolworths)
  - K-Mart
  - Various specialty shops
  - An excellent bookshop

- Other local facilities, eg medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational
  - Public Library
  - 3 Medical Centres
  - CAYS Clinic
  - Environmental Health Centre
  - Hospital
  - Community Health Centre
  - Visiting Specialists
  - IMVS Laboratory
  - Keith Michell Theatre
  - YMCA Fungym
  - Kindergym
  - 2 theatre groups
  - Public Swimming pool
  - Sport is very popular – Netball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, Lawn Bowls, Swimming Club, Touch Football, Ballet, Calisthenics,
Gymnastics, Little Athletics, Volleyball, Tennis, Hockey, Squash, Sailing, Rowing, Golf (A well-maintained golf club)

- Master’s Games are held in Pirie every 2 years

- Availability of staff housing
  : Some government housing is available.

- Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport and its availability, frequency and cost (especially by air), road quality
  : Port Pirie is 2.5 hours from Adelaide travelling on Highway One with adequate overtaking lanes. There is a regular bus service.

- Local Government body, availability of publications describing the local area, characteristics, level of involvement
  : The Port Pirie Regional Council is the local Government body.
  Phone – 8632 1222
  The council has a services guide. This outlines council services. Information on other town services can be accessed at the public library.
  Phone – 8632 1649

7. Further Comments

- Partnership/incorporation arrangements with other groups
  : Rattles and Rhymes Playgroup operates for children 0-5 years each Friday of term (except the final Friday) from 10.30am -12.30pm. There is no fee for Rattles and Rhymes and a donation is optional. Lunch is included and supplied by the Nyrstar 10 by 10 program. The Playgroup is run by a local group of professionals who interact and support all children and families in attendance. They include speech pathologists, occupational therapists as well as members of the Environmental Health Centre and Uniting Care Wesley. Rattles and Rhymes playgroup is very popular and also regularly runs guest speaker sessions.