



Grove Kindergarten

2021 annual report to the community

Grove Kindergarten Number: 4618

Partnership: Greenhill South

Signature

Preschool director:

Victoria Willcox

Governing council chair:

Michael Simmons

Date of endorsement:

3 March 2022



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Context and highlights

Grove Kindergarten continues to provide a well respected service to a community with a mixed profile. Many families have one or both parents working full or part time and so 15 hours of preschool over 2 days is offered, making two groups attending, either Monday and Tuesday or Wednesday and Thursday. This enables children continuity in their learning and large blocks of time to discover and test their theories and ideas. Many parents also utilise local child care and Parkside OSHC to extend their child's education and care provision across a week. While 2021 had some continuing uncertainty and a few Covid-19 related interruptions the community embraced the spirit of our philosophy through being 'in an ever-changing world where challenges are opportunities to connect and learn'. The beginning of the year was full of excitement as a major yard development heralded a new sustainable and sunny vegetable garden area with wicking beds, garden beds for ornamental and productive fruit trees, shrubs and groundcovers and open-ended structures including a steel play pod, upright wooden pillars for hammocks and shade covers. This provided a great landscape in which the children could play and learn. Other improvements to the kindergarten included external painting and the beginning of plans to change the bath area to a purposeful art sink and storage area to allow more space in the inside learning area. The kindergarten was able to access extra space for a welcoming garden area, also used to eat lunch and create a 'staff withdrawal space'. We've had some memorable learning moments including children's participation in our daily Move To Learn Program to build regulation skills, taking turns to be a member of the Grove Sustainability Team, building our physical coordination and strengths in the Mini Olympics, welcoming parents and grandparents as special visitors to our campfire on Outdoor Only Days. A highlight was listening and viewing works from visiting authors and illustrators as part of our literacy focus, along with life cycle explorations through chick hatching, silkworms, monarch butterflies and observing tadpole transformations. It was also wonderful to welcome our families into the kindergarten for our Family Fire Night with our Kaurna Visitor, Robert sharing his culture and didgeridoo playing. An excursion to Beerenberg Strawberry Farm capped off a lovely year. Grove Kindergarten is rated as EXCEEDING the National Quality Standard (NQS) by ACECQA.

Governing council report

The parent community was well represented by the Governing Council this year, with the volunteer members contributing their knowledge and skills to help the kindergarten in various ways, including:

- Worked with a professional designer to create a new visual identity for the kindergarten to bring to life Grove's new learning philosophy that was launched last year. The end result was fantastic and was inspired by artworks created by the children about what Grove means to them. The new identity will be progressively rolled out everywhere during 2022 – on signage, shirts/hats, website, stationery etc etc.
- Gained funding from Burnside Council to bring in Ready Steady Go to run a fun sporting event the "Kindy-lympics" that coincided with the Tokyo Olympics. The event also supported active and healthy lifestyles and included a visit from a real Olympian.
- Discussed / took action on various maintenance/improvements to Grove facilities including exterior painting, pin board, flooring, smart TV, and art sink.
- Collaborated on organising the family fire night, including fantastic indigenous catering and guest performer.
- Wrote to Burnside council about traffic concerns in the parking area which resulted in improved signage.
- Arranged and enthusiastically participated in two working bees.

A huge thank you to the Governing Council members for their efforts through the year. We would all like to thank Victoria and the hard working and dedicated Grove Kindergarten team for providing such a wonderful nurturing learning environment for our children.

Michael Simmons
Grove Kindergarten Governing Council, 2021 Chair

Preschool quality improvement planning

In 2021 our Quality Improvement Work centred on the following goals; for children to improve their ability to engage in increasingly sustained and complex socio-dramatic play and, to improve their involvement in increasingly purposeful play through the development of their sense of number. At Grove, children's play is the primary vehicle for learning to occur and is key to their improvement in literacy, numeracy, STEM and other connected areas of the curriculum. As educators at Grove we challenged ourselves to engage in sustained socio-dramatic play with a focus on shared sustained thinking and to implement a multimodal approach to developing children's number sense.

Through this work our actions included

- extending our knowledge of shared sustained thinking through online PD.
- accessing Orbis professional learning to focus on Preschool Numeracy and Literacy as a staff team.
- building strategies and intentional teaching to strengthen children's development of their sense of number and purposeful socio-dramatic play

Our improvement as an education community, as evidenced through an analysis of the documentation of children's learning at Grove demonstrated that

- educators growing awareness of the 'big ideas of number' impacted positively on children's development of number sense at kindergarten
- when educators talk their thinking to children they make the process of learning clearer
- providing opportunities for learning, using multi-modal pedagogy allows for a variety of learning styles to access knowledge and deeply embed that learning which is experienced in multiple ways by children.
- socio dramatic play is a hidden gem in kindergartens and supporting multimodal ways to document learning further embeds learning for children, staff and families.

Literacy will continue to be a major focus in our improvement work in 2022 with a focus on documenting oral language skills and development through technology and socio-dramatic play.

Enrolment

Year	Enrolment by Term			
	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2018	54	55	55	54
2019	49	50	54	53
2020	55	56	54	54
2021	52	51	52	52

NOTE: The data is based on person counts in the two week reference period each term. Excludes pre-entry.
Data Source: Preschool Data Collection, Data Reporting and Analytics directorate.
Term 2 2020 data may not be available for all preschools.

Attendance

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2018 centre	96.2%	91.4%	86.7%	91.2%
2019 centre	89.3%	93.4%	86.3%	92.9%
2020 centre	90.0%	86.6%	89.4%	93.5%
2021 centre	89.6%	90.2%	92.2%	93%
2018 state	90.8%	88.4%	88.0%	88.2%
2019 state	90.8%	88.2%	86.9%	87.6%
2020 state	89.8%	73.0%	86.3%	87.0%
2021 state	88.6%	86.5%	88.4%	85.0%

Based on attendances recorded in the two week reference period each term. Data for eligible enrolments as described in the department's Enrolment policy.

Attendance rates may differ to previous reporting with the transfer from calculations based on deemed attendance to actual attendance using booked hours divided by attended hours.

*Note: Term 2 2020 data may not be available for all preschools.

Attendance comment

Attendance was generally high throughout the year, excluding times impacted by Covid19 lockdowns and uncertainty. The end of Term 1 and beginning of Term 2 were most affected. There were occasional additional impacts related to parents needing to self-isolate or quarantine. All non-attendance was accounted for and fell into the category of family choice or illness.

Destination schools

Feeder Schools (Site number - Name)	2018	2019	2020	2021
647 - Linden Park Primary School	2.0%	21.7%	4.2%	16.2%
328 - Parkside Primary School	74.0%	65.2%	75.0%	62.2%
447 - Unley Primary School	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	8.1%

NOTE: The data is collected in Term3. It does not reflect actual schools enrolled in by exiting preschool children. Only schools that are a destination for 3% or more of students are shown.

Data Source: Site Performance Reporting System (SPER), Term3 2021 collection.

Destination schools comment

In 2021 Grove Kindergarten children transitioned to 14 different school settings including 3 local independent schools. Parkside Primary School was the most popular, as our closest school. Our preschool catchment area also covers parts of the Glen Osmond Primary School, Linden Park Primary School and Unley Primary School's zones and so these schools were also represented.

Family opinion survey summary

The client opinion survey is one way that Grove collects information about parent satisfaction with leadership and decision making, the quality of teaching and learning, relationships and communication, and support of learning. Most importantly, the Grove focus on community and developing and maintaining strong relationships and communication between children, parents and staff, informally and formally forms the landscape for the exchange of information relating to these areas.

In 2021, 40% of families responded to the annual opinion survey. Our strength in developing relationships with children, families and our continuing focus on implementing high quality learning programs for all was noted frequently in the comments. The majority of responses fell into the agree or strongly agree category and follow a similar pattern to previous years.

All comments will be further analysed in our ongoing reviews and improvements will be actioned by staff and the Governing Council in 2022.

Relevant history screening

All personnel; employees, volunteers, third party providers, Governing Council members, work experience and university students are required to provide a copy of their current Working with Children Check. They are filed as hard copies. This information is kept in folders and easily located for an audit.

Financial statement

Funding Source	Amount
Grants: State	\$474,077
Grants: Commonwealth	\$0
Parent Contributions	\$49,597
Other	\$1,500

2021 Preschool annual report: Improved outcomes funding

Improved outcomes category (where applicable to the site)	Briefly describe how the 2021 funding was used to improve the relevant department's standard of educational achievement outcomes (where applicable):*	Outcomes achieved or progress towards these outcomes:
Improved outcomes for numeracy and literacy	Every child accessed Literacy and Numeracy opportunities through their play daily. Staff were involved in a University of Melbourne/Department for Education professional development to enhance and challenge practice to support improved outcomes for children.	Outcomes were incorporated in the Statements of Learning for each child, as described through the play curriculum.
Inclusive Education Support Program	Funding is used to enable the inclusion of all children with special rights to achieve the outcomes determined in their confidential Inclusive Education Support Plans. Learning is a right, determined in the United Nations Declaration for the Rights of the Child (Articles 17, 28, 29) and is supported in our policies and action.	As described in confidential Inclusive Education Support Plans.
Improved outcomes for non-English speaking children who received bilingual support	Funding is used to support each child who has a home language other than English to participate in the educational programme as it is presented to all children. Goals are set in each child's confidential individual learning programme in partnership with families, monitored and evaluated regularly.	Children, who do not have an additional language, also benefit from the bilingual support programme as other languages are included in the learning program for all.

* The department's standard of educational achievement is defined as children and young people progressing and achieving at or above their appropriate year level.

