

ORROROO KINDERGARTEN

Annual Report 2014



Context

Preschool Name: Orroroo Kindergarten

Preschool Number: 6648

Preschool Director: Ros Bowman

Region: Y&MN

- Is a .4 centre providing 8 sessions / fortnight and is open every Tuesday and Thursday. Operating from 8.30am – 3.15pm, under the Universal Access policy.
- Staff comprise of:- .6 Director and a .4 ECW
- Funded Occasional Care is provided for 1 session / week on Thursday mornings, with an ECW 2, funded for 4.5 hours.
- Wednesdays are for: programming in the morning and Administration by the Director in the afternoon.
- SA Outback Childcare provides a crèche at the Kindy on Mondays from 9am – 3.30pm.
- Playgroup occurs at the kindy every Friday from 9.30 – 11.30am.
- The families comprise 20% farming and 80% local and allied businesses.
- Families utilising the kindy have averaged 9 over the past 5 years. In 2014 we have 10 children attending.
- We see the children for 20 full days / term.



Quality Improvement Plan

Improvement Priorities

1: Programming to build confident, independent, curious learners

2: Developing persistence

3: Literacy: Develop children's Sense of Identity and belonging by building confidence particularly through oral language activities.

4: Improving our recording and reporting on the children's learning

OUTCOMES:

We provided a range of activities around themes from the children's interest. These included: 'Me', space, animals, underground, dinosaurs, life cycles and excursions. We observed the children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, enquiry, experimentation, hypothesizing, researching and investigating as well as skills of persistence and staying on task.

Our data showed that the children were highly engaged in projects that included: large group rocket making; individual rocket making; exploring the block across the road; finding bugs; things the same; leaves that are different; echoing through a big pipe. We had discussions on camouflage, careers and lots of interest in our excursion to the butcher shop to see carcasses hanging in the fridge and sausages being made. Role-play included, doctors, pirates, chefs, shops and cafes. The children have improved in their oral language; increased confidence in talking to a small group. They have been asking questions about animals and whether things are true or not true (fairy stories) and enjoying problem solving using new games such as the bus game that uses adding and subtracting. All have shown improvement in their fine motor skills, counting and number recognition, spatial awareness, patterning and measurement, as evidenced on their EYLF quilts in their Profile Books.

We used the theme of animals, including jungle, farm and zoo. The children showed interest in predators and we looked at non-fiction books and the internet to learn more about the animals of interest to them.

We recorded the children's learning in their Profile books using photos and more detailed learning stories.

This group of children showed a high level of engagement in both indoor and outdoor play. They engaged in projects requiring planning and time and were able to write (copy) labels and words to add to their projects.

The children asked questions and showed curiosity in learning about dingoes, wildebeest, and particularly the big cats.

All children have increased their alphabet knowledge and most are able to recognize their name when sounded out.

Our data showed an increase in number knowledge, including recognition of numbers to 10 by most of the children and most will attempt to add numbers under 10 and all attempt to count to 20.

Our Patch theatre excursion to see *The Angry Bear* gave the children an opportunity to experience live theatre, most, for the first time. It was terrific for so many parents to share this with their child.

Their Community involvement included participating in the SALA (South Australian Living Artists), exhibition at the Area School and the Brush with Art Exhibition in the town Hall and each child exhibited a hand drawn wall hanging in the Orroroo quilting exhibition.

Universal Access has been advantageous in practicing skills and having continuity in the programme. It has had an impact on the children's alphabet knowledge. It is pleasing to know that it will now continue in 2015.

Our year concluded with the well attended Kindy concert where the children sang, danced and demonstrated their good memory for favourite songs and rhymes. The evening included the dramatization of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. The evening brought 70 people together to celebrate another wonderful year of learning together at the Orroroo Kindergarten.

NEXT YEAR our Site Improvement Plan will include:

1. Educational Programme and Practice – We will focus on Numeracy and continue to develop Learning stories as a means of reporting on the children's learning.
2. Children's Health and safety – Inclusion of sessions from the Eat a Rainbow programme.
3. Physical Environment – improving the outdoor play environment redeveloping the bark chip area.
4. Staffing Arrangements – The Director's time will increase to .6 and the ECW to .5 to provide for the additional Universal Access for the 4 year olds from January 2015.
5. Relationships with Children staff will develop numeracy opportunities with the children, capitalising and programming around *Maths Moments* and report on their individual learning.
6. Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities – we will continue to develop the valuable contribution by families to the programme throughout the year, by writing the children's Individual Learning Plans with the parents at an interview at the end of each term.
7. Leadership and Service Management – continue to develop our skills in recording children's learning with a particular focus on numeracy.

Report from Governing Council

2014 PRESIDENT'S REPORT ORROROO KINDERGARTEN

Orroroo Kindergarten has been a hive of activity during 2014. It is a 0.4 centre, which means Kindy has taken place every Tuesday and Thursday, with the addition of Wednesdays during Term 4 (due to Universal Access funding going ahead). Universal Access has been advantageous by providing continuity within the programme, thus enabling students to practice their skills more frequently. Having three consecutive days has proved to be a positive addition to the curriculum, and has cemented much of the learning from throughout the year. In addition to the Kindergarten activities, there are also various other groups who utilise this space, including Crèche, Playgroup, Occasional Care, and also 'Transition' (next year's Kindergarten students attending Thursdays during Term 4).

There have been many highlights throughout the year here at Orroroo Kindergarten. Ros and Lynne planned to challenge children across a range of areas, and have endeavoured to individualise learning programmes in order to maximise the learning of each and every student. Recording and reporting has also been a focus for staff, which has led to development of the Profile Books. The Profile Books have been positive in helping share students' learning and achievements during the year. We have enjoyed having the Profile books sent home each term, and being able to share some

of the experiences with our children, and also discuss our children's learning and development with the teachers. Parents have also been involved through bringing 'special things' (including pets) for our children during 'show and share' twice each term. Meetings of the governing council have also been held twice per term, and have been well attended. Parents have also helped with cleaning the kindy each week (along with the teachers). We've also been able to enjoy many and varied treasures our children have been making at kindy!

The Profile Books have also provided children (and parents) the opportunity to enjoy photos of various trips and activities they have been involved in. 'The Angry Bear' performance at Keith Michell Theatre was certainly one of these highlights (which many parents were able to enjoy, too!). Children have enjoyed being involved in 'A Brush with Art' Exhibition, Quilting Exhibition, and contributing to the SALA Exhibition. Positive life skills are developed both within the Kindy environment and within the wider community, with various trips around Orroroo and surrounds throughout the year. Children have visited the Hospital, Community Home, Butcher, and even visited Maggie's recently, which was surely a favourite!

Healthy eating has also been a theme at kindy this year, which was kicked off with the 'Eat a Rainbow' program in Term 1. This provided positive experiences for the students and tested their willingness to eat various healthy foods of many colours (many of which they tried and enjoyed at Kindy, but may not eat at home!). Fruit time each day has also helped foster healthy eating habits. Other themes have also enabled some delicious treats to be enjoyed, including the 'Pirate Party', where students planned and cooked their own pizzas, and tried some 'pirate juice'. Some learning focused on letters of the alphabet, so 'b' was popular when they made some banana muffins.

Other themes during 2014 were 'Me', Space, and Animals – all of which proved very popular. The teachers have aimed to build confident, independent and curious learners this year, and through the aforementioned activities, have certainly done their best to achieve their goals. Developing persistence and resilience have also been major goals, and there have been ample opportunities for children to develop these – individually, in small groups, and as a class. Literacy has also been a focus, with the TROLL data for oral language helping the students develop their literacy (along with various 'troll and goat games'!).

The close vicinity of OAS has provided plenty of chances for our children to become familiar and confident within the school, too. Fortnightly trips to the library (including borrowing with Mrs Rosenblatt), taking part in 'Book Week' activities, trips to see the turkeys/sheep/cows, running in the Kindy race at Sports Day, along with Transition during Term 4 (three part-days, along with a full day tomorrow) are just a few examples.

As we reflect on the kindergarten year of 2014, we also embark on a new chapter for the children (and parents!), leading into 2015. I think we can all feel confident that the year the children have had at Kindy has prepared them well for school, and it's been lovely to see how the children have bonded together so nicely. On behalf of the parents, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ros, Lynne, and Jo for their tireless work with our children this year. We have been blessed to have such

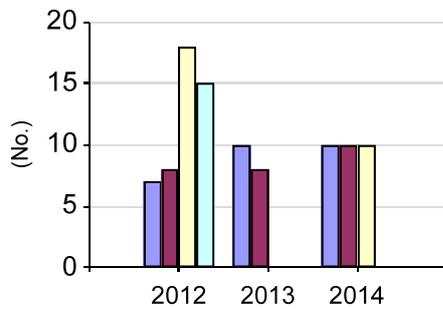
caring and thorough staff members, who have helped the children develop and flourish in the kindy environment. I would also like to wish all the children the best of luck for their education, and particularly when they start Reception at Orroroo Area School next year.

Rebekah Rasheed
President

Student Data

Enrolments

Total Enrolments 2012 – 2014



Attendance

Figure 2: Attendance by Term

Attendance Percentages 2012 - 2014

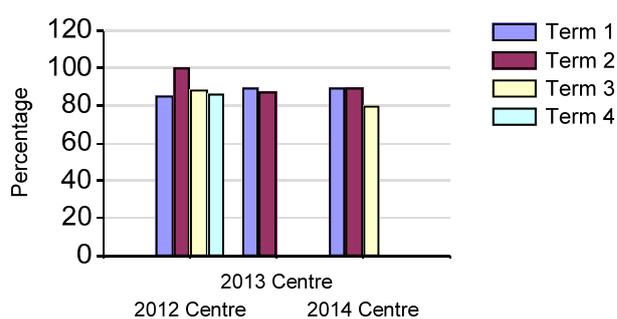


Table 2: Attendance Percentages 2012 - 2014

Attendance Percentage				
Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
2012 Centre	85.7	100.0	88.9	86.7
2013 Centre	90.0	87.5		
2014 Centre	90.0	90.0	80.0	
2012 State	87.4	85.9	84.5	85.5
2013 State	88.7	88.0		
2014 State	89.9	88.8	85.9	

Based on attendances recorded in the two week reference period each term, and calculated to an average unadjusted daily attendance (deemed attendance). Attendance percentages are based on the calculated deemed attendance (integer), divided by the number of enrolments. Excludes pre-entry Note: Figures have been revised for previous years, using integer deemed attendance not decimal.

Source: Preschool Data Collection, Data Management and Information Systems

Our attendance has averaged 89% over the year.

Our families value the service and are very diligent in letting us know if their child is sick or if there is a family reason for their absence. We will continue to encourage this in 2015.

Feeder Schools				
Site number - Name	Type	2012	2013	2014
0740 - Orroroo Area School	Govt.	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0

Client Opinion

The results of our parent surveys this year showed parents were satisfied with the program provided for their children. They appreciated the focus on Literacy and Numeracy and the improvement of the children's ability to persist and stay on task. Parents contributed books on topics, photos, pets and items of interest throughout the year, which was much appreciated by the staff and the children. The Community feed-back on the children's art work was also very positive. Verbal feed-back was very positive regarding parent's increased access to the Profile books and the added learning stories were appreciated by both the children and the parents.

Accountability

National Partnerships

The kindergarten through Universal Access provides 15 hours / week over four terms. Our sessions run all day, every Tuesday and Thursday and also every Wednesday in Term 4.

In 2015 this will change to sessions running every Tuesday and Thursday from 8.30am - 3.15pm for Terms 1 & 2 and every Tuesday, Thursday and alternate Wednesdays in Terms 3 & 4.

Our Staff are committed to providing a play based learning environment based on the Early Years Learning Framework. Our data has shown evidence that all of the children by their last term of kindy have improved in all 5 areas as shown on the 'Early Years Framework quilt'. The children's increased confidence and persistence was particularly evident this year.

In relation to DECD Criminal History Screening Procedure – we have all staff, Governing council and volunteers with a DCSI check and engaged in the comprehensive audit by the Criminal history screening unit.

In 2014 we have been in a cluster with other sites in the region under the title *Flinders Partnership*. The Partnership has agreed to focus on Numeracy in 2015. Three preschools have net-worked to develop their Performance Management this year. In 2015 we will work together with Pirie and Upper Mid-North Partnerships under the Educational Directorship of Terry Sizer.

Financial Statement

Our Finance Officer at Orroroo Area School uses EDSAS and has forwarded the Financial Summary Statement for 2014.