1. General information

Berri Community Preschool
Centre number - 6505
Preschool Director – Allayne Frankel
Postal & Location address - 1A Fiedler Street, Berri SA 5343
Telephone number - 08 85 821 880
Fax number - 08 85 823 084
e-mail address - dl.6505.director@schools.sa.edu.au

Programs operating:-

❖ Sessional Kindergarten for eligible children:-
   Times of operation: Monday to Thursday, 8:45am - 2:45pm
   Session Options:
   - 2 full days Monday & Wednesday with a full day on alternate Tuesday or Thursday in odd weeks.
   - OR Tuesday & Thursday with a full day on an alternate Monday.

   This equates to 30 hours of preschool each fortnight utilising the allocation of Government funded Universal Access.

❖ Pre Entry:-

Pre-entry is held in term 4 depending on the availability of staff. Parents of under 4’s are asked to phone the centre to make a preliminary enrolment for their child. These families will receive a letter regarding a parent meeting and session times.
- **Occasional Care** for over 2 year olds operates on Friday mornings.
- **Lunchtime care** is included in the 30 hours preschool per fortnight. Children bring their own healthy lunch.
- **Bilingual Support** is dependent upon the needs of the child, funding and availability of a support worker. However, the curriculum is inclusive, and staff cater for all children’s needs including wellbeing and language support.
- **Preschool Support** is provided for children who have a developmental delay (physical, cognitive and/or emotional). Children with speech and/or language difficulties may attract also attract support from Disabilities, (DECD) and assessment and support from a DECD Speech Pathologist.
- **Child & Youth Health Assessments** – are conducted at the centre each term.

2. **Key Centre Policies**

   The centre operates with a yearly **Quality Improvement Plan** which encompasses 7 Quality Areas:
   - Educational programme and practice
   - Children’s Health & Safety
   - Physical environment
   - Staffing
   - Relationships with children
   - Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
   - Leadership & service management

   The core business of our preschool is to plan and provide high quality learning experiences for children in their preschool year. This is supported by quality teaching, respect for children, catering for individual needs and working in collaboration with families.

3. **Curriculum**

   The curriculum is constructed around on the **Early Years Learning Framework** with the focus on children learning through play and children’s voice.

   The centre’s Core Values and Principles are:
   - *excellence*
   - *respect*
   - *responsibility*
   - *equity*
   - *commitment*
   - *trust*
   - *credibility*
   - *caring*

4. **Centre Based Staff**

   The centre operates with a full time Director and Teacher and depending on numbers, 0.5 or 1.0 Early Childhood Worker. With Universal Access, extra staffing positions are available.
5. Centre Facilities

- Buildings and grounds
  Berri Community Preschool is situated near the water tower, 100 metres along the road which passes the side of the Berri Regional Child care Centre. The main building is over 50 years old and has large grounds. Facilities are continually upgraded and extended. The outdoor area boasts a large sandpit, a bike track, a rock water-course, a large cubby, a covered stage area, extensive verandas and shade areas and flower and vegetable gardens. The building is large and has a disabled bathroom, two activity rooms and a withdrawal room. The centre houses 2 interactive boards.

- Capacity (per session)
  The centre can cater for up to 45 children per session.

- Centre Ownership
  The land and building were originally donated by the community and are now owned by the Department of Education and Child Development.

6. Local Community (intended for country preschools)

- General characteristics: (eg. types of work available, languages usually spoken at home, local developments) - Berri is considered to be the central government town of the Riverland. Numerous government departments and agencies are located here in addition to the Berri Regional Hospital, Riverland Community Health Services and Families SA. The area is multicultural and has been the home for several generations of many Greek families with a growing Sikh population. Fruit picking was once a main industry but has reduced significantly, and now provides only casual opportunities for work.

- Parent and community involvement in the preschool
  Berri Preschool has an open door policy where children's families are welcome at any time. The Governing Council welcomes new members at any time. The GC meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm.

- Schools to which children generally transfer from this preschool
  The preschool mostly feeds into 3 public schools and 3 private schools. As Berri is a regional government town, many people travel from other towns to work here. Often their children attend the neighbouring child care centre and also this preschool. Consequently, our preschool at times has fed into 12 different primary schools.

- Other local care and educational facilities, eg child care, schools, OSHC
  OSHC is available at Berri Primary School and they will take 4 year old children if they have an older sibling at the facility. A taxi transports the children to and from preschool.
  The Berri Regional Child Care Centre caters for children from birth to 5.

- Commercial/industrial and shopping facilities - There are 2 main shopping precincts in the town housing Woolworths, Coles and Target.
• Other local facilities, eg medical, sporting, social, cultural, recreational - There is a large medical centre in the town located near the Berri Regional Hospital which is serviced by many visiting specialists. The Riverland Community Health Centre has a range of health services including an Early Intervention group.

• Availability of staff housing
  Some teacher housing is available and there are also short term fully equipped units.

• Accessibility to Adelaide and relevant major centres, including public transport
  Stateliner buses travel to Adelaide twice per day and return. The main highway (Sturt Hwy) is the main route to Sydney and connects to the Northern Expressway north of Adelaide.

• Berri Preschool is in the Berri Barmera Council area (ph:85 821 922) - see the website for more details.

7. Further Comments

• Establishment of new services and/or programs
  Occasional Care is being offered from term 4, 2015.

• Partnership/incorporation arrangements with other groups
  The Berri Barmera Partnership includes Berri Community Preschool, Berri Primary, Glossop High (2 campuses), Winkie Primary, Glossop Primary, Monash Primary, Barmera Kindergarten, Barmera Primary and Cobdogla Primary.