

# ELSA in Action

**Goodstart Early Learning  
Centre**  
Parafield Gardens,  
South Australia

## **Goodstart Early Learning Centre, Parafield Garden**

Our 70-place centre provides care for three age groups – Nursery, Toddlers and Kindergarten / Preschool. We work with our families and partner with organisations throughout our community to develop a curriculum which is based around play, experience and routine, all in line with the Early Years Learning Framework. Each of our three rooms are set up to promote stimulating, fun learning and outside we have wooden cubbies, garden beds, rainwater tanks, worm farms, vegetable gardens and all natural surrounds to help in teaching children about the natural environment and sustainability.



*Children playing the apps*



*Children playing the apps*



*Children matching symbol and picture cards*



**Kathryn Wallis**  
Preschool teacher



**Jody Innes**  
Centre director

**ELSA**  
EARLY LEARNING STEM AUSTRALIA



“ ELSA has had a huge impact here. It's offered Kathryn the opportunity to get some inspiration, knowledge and be involved in the program. It's been able to give her some ideas or pathways. The resources in the post have added inspiration too - we could try another way or do different tasks. We've thought of other ways and different things and we've been able to share it with parents and other educators, and externally. It's had a big impact on the children's outcomes. Then we've tried to showcase it to parents and they are so enthusiastic about ELSA because they can see their children are getting something out of it. ”

-Jody



Children sorting shapes according to colour

“ It has been good meeting other teachers from around Australia in different settings and seeing what they are doing. Lots of them have the same struggles that we have here and it is always good to know that you are not alone. Getting ideas from them and what they are doing and how you can fit them into your centre has been great. It is always good to have new ideas and bring fresh things back. ”

-Kathryn

“ I would definitely recommend ELSA to anyone. It changes your thinking around STEM and what it means in early learning and how embedded it actually is. We just need to make it more explicit and start using the language like pointing out to other educators and the children while we are doing things, for instance that what they are doing is actually encoding or decoding. Or when the children are in the sandpit, they are experimenting. It helps both educators and the children understand what is happening. ”

- Kathryn



Children using conditionals to complete an obstacle course

“ The children all sit together, talk and help each other out. I don't think there is a child ever sitting by themselves using the app, there are always at least 2 or 3 children sitting together talking through it. ”

- Kathryn

