

ELSA in Action

**Goodstart Early Learning
Child Care Centre
Smithfield, South Australia**

Goodstart Early Learning Child Care Centre

We work to provide children and their families with a safe and challenging environment while offering early intervention strategies to assist children who might be at risk or disadvantaged. Our centres' approach is an all-of-community one. We have a Child and Family Practitioner, a Speech Pathologist and an Occupational Therapist who make regular visits to our centre. We offer a Food Bank service for our families and our chef prepares extra meals every day for parents to take home. Our centre works to provide parents with support, community and information to assist with day-to-day life.



Making patterns with fruit



Making patterns with fruit



Sorting counters according to colour into potion bottles



Mandy Sager
Preschool teacher

“ The children really like patterning. It’s non-stop, 6:30 in the morning they’re creating a pattern with anything in the room – they’re always like, ‘Look at my pattern, look at my pattern’. We used to do it just in the morning, but now they just do it throughout the day themselves. It’s not a routine that we’re doing planning, they just take it on themselves, it’s their own initiatives which is really good. ”



Creating their community using blocks with photos

“ They’re really enjoying birds eye view and understanding where they are and drawing their own maps and turning it into 3D using blocks with their photos that we took out on the street. And then we’ve used Google images and technology to try and make it further. Now they constantly say, ‘Can we go for a walk today?’ ”

“ The children are learning so much. The parents are coming in and saying, ‘Wow, they’ve done this?’ They are picking up signs out on the street when they are driving around. I said, ‘What’s this sign?’ the other day when we were walking around and they said, ‘That’s for the roundabout; cars have to go this way’. ”



Finding locations on the map

“ Absolutely, I want to keep doing ELSA, absolutely I would recommend it. It’s really beneficial for the children, and they are loving it. Us educators are loving it too. We’ve always got to think and reflect on what we’re doing, and think, ‘What’s working? How can we make it better and further their knowledge? What can we keep prompting?’ So it’s making us think and learn ourselves. ”

