



KEITHCOT FARM

# Children's Centre

for Early Childhood  
Development and Parenting



Government  
of South Australia

## June Newsletter

### Curriculum



Walks to our local park from Keithcot Farm Drive (opposite Lady Penrhyn) to the bottom of O'Leary Place will continue with the older preschool children.

*Please don't forget to bring **named boots and coats** ☺*

Research demonstrates that unstructured, outdoor play in nature is fundamental to childhood and that it is as important to children as food and sleep!

Children innately reap great benefits as they grow connections and an appreciation of the natural environment.

In the structured, busy and technologically-advanced world we live in, the role of outdoor play that we experienced as children is being forgotten.

Outcomes from nature play include achievement, innovation, creativity, positive relationship development, skill development, self-awareness, organising, decision making, innovation, problem solving, communication and working with others. These outcomes contribute to successful trajectories later in life.



### Social Media and Cyber Safety Policy

At Keithcot Farm Children's Centre, we promote the safe use of Information and Communication Technologies to provide a rich learning environment for our children and to engage and communicate with our Community.

- ✓ You are most welcome to photograph or record **your child** while at the Children's Centre or engaging in Children's Centre activities off site.
- ✓ Please consider the angle of your photo so that other children are **not included** – you may need to crop your photo to remove images of other children.

In order to protect children and respect the wishes of all members of our Community we ask that the following security guidelines are followed by all staff, parents/ carers and members of the community.

- ❖ If your photographs or video recordings contain the image of children other than your own, these **must not** be uploaded to any website, Facebook (or other social media platform), emailed to third parties or reproduced / printed and used outside of your home.
- ❖ We have children enrolled at our Centre whose parents/ Guardians have not granted permission for their child's image to be recorded or published outside of the Children's Centre.
- ❖ Please do not photocopy/scan and share with third parties any photographs containing an image of a child other than your own (these may be found in your child's portfolio.)

**Please note - no Department for Education Preschool  
Friday 5 July 2018**

Our core Educators from across our site will spend the day reviewing our Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing Policies and Procedures; reviewing our Workplace Health and Safety procedures as well as monitoring the progress of our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP).

*"Providing exemplary early childhood education is an ongoing process; even the most experienced and outstanding educators never reach a state of professional perfection ... a commitment to reflection and opportunities for continual professional development serve as ways to ensure that educators are working towards new depths of understanding in their own practice"*  
(Goldstein, 1997)

Long Day Care will be available to families who have children with a regular LDC booking each Friday.



## Audits

The National Quality Framework – **Quality Area 2** *Children's Health and Safety* states that to minimise risks to children, an Education and Care Service must implement

- ✓ Adequate health and hygiene practices.
- ✓ Safe practices for handling and storing food
- ✓ Ensure that policies and procedures are in place about these practices
- ✓ Comply with food safety legislation.

The TTG Council conducts an annual Food Safety Audit to ensure that there are minimal risks to children and staff. Our site did exceptionally well– which affirms the high quality of food handling, preparation, monitoring and storage – **thank you especially to Jen, Jo and Nobuko**

**Quality Area 7:** Governance and *Leadership* states that “*well documented policies and procedures; well maintained records and administrative systems are established and maintained*”. This ensures the effective operation of the Centre and contributes to the quality environments for children's learning and development”. An annual Finance Audit was conducted by an external Auditor authorised by the Department for Education - Bentleys SA on 10 April 2019. Overall the Auditor was very satisfied with the financial management of our centre.

– **thank you especially to Sue Hall, Mark Hawkes, Kylie Webster and Cathy Mazzarolo.**

Safety of children and families, staff and visitors is a particularly high priority at Keithcot Farm Children's Centre. Every morning the sandpits and bark areas are raked to ensure that there are no foreign objects which could be hazardous to children, staff and families. The rubber soft-fall and paved areas are blower vacuumed by staff. The floors are swept at the end of each session and after meals and every evening our cleaner Kathy, spends a considerable amount of time cleaning the Centre in readiness for the next day. Jodie – our Workplace Health and Safety Rep as well as Simon (Grounds person) inspect the playground equipment on a regular basis and through our Spotless Facility Manager we have a range of technicians who regularly visit to check electrical equipment, air conditioners, heaters, fire extinguishers etc.

## Health



If your child is showing signs of being unwell before coming to the Children's Centre, **it is important to keep him/her home for the day, and ring the Centre to inform of your child's absence.**

Correct hand washing is one of the most effective ways to help prevent the spread of colds and influenza.

Common cold viruses can get on our hands when we touch infected hands, surfaces and objects. When we put our unwashed hands in our mouth or rub our eyes and nose with them we can infect ourselves with a cold virus.



Wash hands thoroughly, especially **before eating** food and **after blowing** the nose, coughing or sneezing.

**Children who have diarrhoea or are vomiting must be kept home for 24 hours after the last episode.**

Should any child become unwell at the Children's Centre, parents or contacts nominated by parents on their child's enrolment form will be contacted and requested that the child be collected as soon as possible **or within one hour** to reduce the possibility of the illness spreading to other children and staff.

In some instances when a Doctor has recommended that a child stay home, a Doctor's clearance that it is OK for your child to return to our Centre, may be required.

Please notify staff immediately should your child contract an infectious disease.

**Please note:** in the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease, families of “**non-immunised**” children will be asked to **exclude their child** from the Children's Centre for the relevant period.

Now that we are heading into winter, could you please provide a warm **named beanie** and a **named rain jacket** for your child to wear outdoors?

This also supports the implementation of our Nature Play Curriculum. We have a large covered outdoor area, but sometimes children get caught in the rain if there is a sudden downpour, leaving the rest of their clothes wet. A warm rain jacket that can be independently removed and hung to dry will reduce the problem of wet clothes in winter.



## Parent Opinion Survey

All families of our Children's Centre will soon receive a Parent Opinion Survey. This survey is a mandatory reporting requirement for all Department for Education Schools, Preschools and Children's Centres.

Each year the Parent Opinion Survey is given to parents/caregivers to help us gain feedback about the Children's Centre and the range of programs that we provide.

The information you give is collated and then reflected upon during planning processes - the planning of the learning program, the centre priorities, strategic directions and achieving the National Quality Standard (NQS).

The information is also used when completing the Annual General Report.

This is your opportunity to express your views around what you value about the Children's Centre and its programs and to offer constructive and innovative suggestions about how we can continuously improve our service to you.



## 2020 Preschool Program

On 2 August 2019 letters will be sent to families have registered an Expression of Interest in our Preschool Program and who live in our immediate catchment area

- ❖ Bridge Road
- ❖ McIntyre Road
- ❖ The Golden Way
- ❖ The Grove Way

offering a place in our Preschool Program for 2020.

Depending on the number of available positions, offers for families who live beyond the catchment will be mailed out on Friday 16 August.

The aim of this procedure is to ensure that children are offered a place in their local centre. A consistent state-wide approach, including the establishment of local catchment areas, ensures that all families are provided with the same information about their Preschool enrolment options.

## Community Development

We have had a busy start to Term 2 and would like to send a huge thank you to families who have attended our programs, including the ones in celebration of National Families Week. We enjoyed a wonderful Special Person's Week, including our Family Sunday event at Gorge Wildlife Park (despite the extremely wet weather) and PJ Story time (in conjunction with National Simultaneous Story time).



Gorge Wildlife Farm- Family event.  
Sunday 19 May 2019.

We have also added another couple of options for parents to attend this term:

**First Aid for Parents & Carers-  
Saturday 22 June 10am- 12noon  
\$10/person or \$15/couple**

**Kidsafe SA- safety in and around the home  
Tuesday 25 June 10am- 11am**  
A free information session.

Both programs are open to anyone interested in attending, please feel free to invite friends and family members. The First Aid course may be of particular interest to grandparents and anyone who also shares care of your children.

**Bookings are essential prior to the day.**

We also have a new program that has launched this term called **Post Natal Connect**. This weekly program, Wednesday mornings 9:30am- 11am is for any parent who is experiencing challenges with mental health and wellbeing during pregnancy or during the post natal period.

If you would like to hear more about this program or to chat about if it would be of relevance to you, please feel free to give me a call: 8251 2700 or send me an email: [Laura.francis@sa.gov.au](mailto:Laura.francis@sa.gov.au)

As our planning for term 3 is already well underway, if you have any particular requests in regard to guest speakers that you may have missed, and would like to see return, or areas relating to your parenting journey that you would like to know more about please stop by for a chat anytime.

## Dates to Remember



**Thursday 13 June:** Preschool Health checks

**Friday 14 June:** Coffee and chat

**Saturday 22 June:** First Aid for Parents and Carers

**Tuesday 25 June:** Kidsafe SA

**Friday 28 June:** Coffee and chat

**Thursday 4 July:** Last Preschool session for Term 2.

**Friday 5 July** Preschool closure.

Normal Friday LDC Program.

**Long Day Care continues through**

**the July School Holidays**

**Monday 22 July:** Preschool resumes for Term 3.

