



Newsletter



**Children's
Centre**
for Early Childhood
Development and Parenting



COVID-19

In response to **COVID-19**, child care is currently free! At Keithcot Farm Children's Centre the "free childcare" refers to our Long Day Care, Before and After Preschool care and Between Session Care Programs – it does **not** refer to our **Preschool program** (15 hours/week) which is funded by the State Government.

To date, Centrelink is not paying the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) for Long Day Care, Before and After Preschool Care or for Between Session Care.

If you were getting CCS **before** 6 April 2020, you won't need to do anything for it to start again (when the free child care period ends).

At this stage we understand fees for childcare will recommence at the **Monday 13th July 2020**.

CCS helps with the cost of approved child care. Centrelink pays this subsidy directly to our Centre to reduce the fees you pay.

Our **full Childcare fees** are currently:

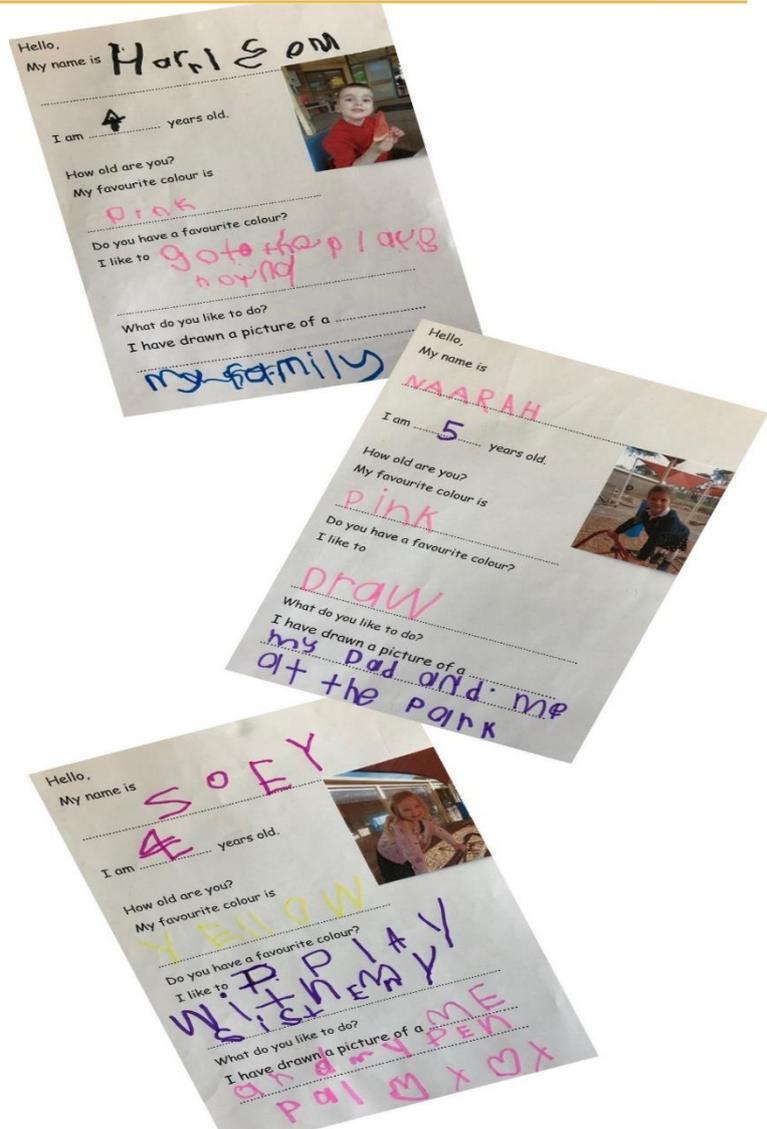
- Full Day: \$108
- Before Preschool Care: \$21
- After Preschool Care: \$26
- Between Session Care: \$20
- Lunch + Afternoon (Preschool Children): \$60

To find out more about the Child Care Subsidy please visit the **Services Australia website**.

Since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, we have seen changes in our community reactions. We have moved from initial confusion to some degree of social fragmentation, demonstrated by the hoarding of toilet paper and averted gazes when passing people in the street. Yet, as individuals and as a community, we have still recognised that, inherently, we are all connected. We have seen people reach out to neighbours, safeguard their elders, identify and help those in need, support friends and work colleagues and, perhaps fundamentally, take the opportunity to deepen the quality of time with our families.

At Keithcot Farm Children's Centre, we have a connection with a **Residential Aged Care facility - Estia Health @ Salisbury East**. Our older Preschool children are in the process of developing a twoway intergenerational buddy system as they communicate with many of the residents via Post.

This work links closely with the Early Years Learning Framework "Children are connected with and contribute to their world, where they develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for community participation."



Immunisation



Immunisation is generally thought to be the best way of reducing the likelihood of children being infected by serious diseases such as whooping cough, hepatitis and polio.

Our Centre is required to provide children's current immunisation records, from the **Australian Immunisation Register** to the chief public health officer within 24 hours when requested.

This will ensure a rapid response to prevent the spread of a vaccine preventable disease.

As your child's immunisation is updated – it is critically important that **you provide us with the updated copy** via the Australian Immunisation Register – **within one month of the last vaccine.**

We will remind you of these immunisation record requirements at least twice a year.

If we already have your child's most current immunisation history statement, and no vaccines have since become due, **you will not need to give us another copy.**

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 COVID-19 as well as colds and influenza.

These 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 these 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.



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.



2021 Preschool Program

In August 2020 letters will be sent to families who 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 2021.

Depending on the number of available positions, offers for families who live beyond the catchment will be mailed out apx 2 weeks later.

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.

Please encourage friends and families to register their child for 2021!

No Department for Education Preschool on Friday 3 July

Our core Educators from **across our site** will spend the day monitoring the progress of our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and reviewing Policies and Procedures.

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

Last day of Preschool for Term 2 will be **Thursday 2 July.**

The Preschool Program will recommence for Term 3 on **Monday 20 July.**

Long Day Care will continue through the Pre School holidays. **Families whose children access Before / After Preschool Care need to confirm their intentions for their child's attendance during these Preschool holidays.**

End of Year Closure

At our last Governing Council meeting held on 11 May, unanimous approval was received to **close the whole Centre from 12.30pm on Friday 11 December 2020.**

The Long Day Care program will then resume on **Monday 4 January 2021.**

No fees are charged during this closure.