



March Newsletter

We currently have **154** children accessing a range of Birth to School Entry integrated programs **across our site**.

- **94** of these children are accessing our Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) Preschool Program.
- **60** children are accessing our Long Day Care Program.
- **22** of our preschool children are participating in our Long Day Care program either before or after preschool.
- **69** of our preschool children are accessing **between** Preschool session care (11.30am – 12.15pm).

We currently have **30 staff** who work across our site in a range of roles and responsibilities.

We believe that it takes a team of Educators to nurture the learning and development of each individual child in partnership with families. In addition to the team approach, all children are placed with a Primary Educator- this strategy further assists children to settle into the Centre's routines and to develop positive, respectful, trusting relationships/ friendships with their peers and Educators which is an essential part of children's Social Competence and Emotional Maturity. If you are not sure who your child's Primary Educator is – please contact us on 82512700 and we will let you know who this is.

Attendance

Please note : It is a Licensing requirement that children are signed in and signed out when both arriving and departing each day.



Please ensure that while your child is at the Children's Centre that you are contactable via your phone.

Please make every effort to respond to messages left on your phone

as soon as possible.

Please phone us and let us know if your child is not attending for the day.



Health and Safety

The Department for Education and Child Development has recently sent to all DECD sites a **Hazard Alert** *An incident/accident has occurred recently at 2 sites resulting in injuries to students.*

In one incident the student was using the junior primary play equipment and caught the hat that they were wearing in play equipment, resulting in a red welt on the child's throat due to friction/burn.

As this incident identifies a risk of injury we request the following:



- please inspect your child's hat and if it has a cord, please immediately remove the cord.
- Please remove cords including draw strings on hooded tops.

The safety of students at Keithcot Farm Children's Centre is of utmost importance, as such our staff team will continue to monitor and assess potential risks. When required we will modify or change processes to ensure our children get the best possible care.



Preschool Closure

Please note - there will be no DECD preschool on

Friday 7 April

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

Our core Educators from across our site will spend the day reviewing our Children's Development and Planning Policies and updating our Clothing Policy to meet the DECD guidelines. We will monitor the progress of our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) as well as discuss Workplace Health and Safety issues.

Building Redevelopment

We are delighted with the progress of our Building Redevelopment which is well on track for completion in **July 2017!!**

Many thanks to everyone for the smooth transition to using the Northern Entrance as our main entrance, while the work is in progress.

Along with the Department of Planning, Transport & Infrastructure (DPTI) we have ensured that every measure is in place necessary for the ongoing safety for your children, families, visitors and our staff team.



Curriculum

Children have been introduced /reintroduced to the Centre's routines. They are learning that when the bell rings, this is a signal to come inside for group experiences.

Educators have also explained our 'limits'. For example, walking inside, sitting when we eat and drink and washing hands before eating and after using the toilet. Children will develop an understanding as to **WHY** we implement these hygiene practices and other procedures.

We have been reflecting on our program and practice with a focus on '**Sense of Agency**'. When children have opportunities to make choices, to attempt tasks for themselves, and to take on increasing responsibilities, their sense of themselves as competent members of society grows. Doing something for yourself produces a powerful sense of achievement and success. The evidence clearly shows that children who develop strong self-esteem, sense of agency and academic motivation are more likely to achieve their potential at school as well as being resilient to risk factors throughout their education (Brown & Medway, 2007; Gizir & Aydin, 2009).

In our Preschool program we are currently implementing "**Move to Learn**" with the support of our Occupational Therapist – Daniela. It is a movement program designed with a series of movement patterns which has a developmental sequence which aims to assist in integrating the left and right brain functions and helps to further mature the nervous system to support attention and higher order thinking.

Every morning our 2 and 3 year old children participate in a Music and Movement Group. The aim for this group is to encourage children to develop skills needed for learning through rhymes, action songs and movement activities. Our babies also participate in a modified music and literacy experience.

On **7 March**, Preschool Children who attend on a *Tuesday* will visit the **Road Safety School**. This excursion will assist children to learn about road safety; to look, listen, and think before crossing a road. They will be reminded that children and adults need to wear seat belts when travelling in a car, and to wear a helmet when riding their bike.

More information about our curriculum can be found on the noticeboards on the veranda and in the children's portfolios. The portfolios are stored in open bookcases in the Star and Rainbow Rooms.

Children's portfolios are available for children, parents, and families to spend time together to read through. They capture daily events, achievements and interests, during their time at Keithcot Farm. They assist Educators to plan effectively and also communicate with you about your child's current and future learning.



Educators across our Birth to School Transition site use a variety of strategies to collect, rich and meaningful information that depicts children's learning and development.

We use "**Learning Stories**" which focus on children's strengths, interests, actions and dispositions and documents children's involvement in learning, including communication, interactions and collaboration. "Learning Stories" also document how children approach challenging tasks, demonstrate persistence and resolve situations of conflict. (These are important life skills!)

Please take your child's portfolio home and share with other family members.

We would love you to contribute some information about what activities your child enjoys with your family at home, on holidays or other experiences by adding your own photos and stories.

We believe that the Learning Stories make the learning at Keithcot Farm "more visible" as demonstrated by the outstanding feedback received from families.

National Quality Framework

At some stage this year we expect to be selected to participate in an Assessment and Rating process against the **National Quality Standard (NQS)**.

The NQS has **7 quality areas**:

1 Educational program and practice

Programs should be stimulating, engaging and enhance children's learning and development.

2 Children's health and safety

Every child's health and wellbeing should be safeguarded and promoted.

3 Physical environment.

Should be safe, suitable and provide a rich and diverse range of experiences which promote children's learning and development.

4 Staffing arrangements

Staffing arrangements should create a safe and routine environment for children and support warm, respectful relationships.

5 Relationships with children

These should be responsive, respectful and promote a child's sense of security and belonging so they are confident to explore the environment and engage in learning.



6 Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

Good working relationships with families are fundamental to achieving good outcomes for children. Community partnerships should focus on active communication, consultation and collaboration that all contribute to children's learning and wellbeing.

7 Leadership and service management

Effective leadership and management will sustain positive relationships and environments that aid children's learning and development. Well documented policies and practices should be developed and regularly evaluated in partnership with educators, coordinators, staff and families.

National Quality Framework Review

- The Australian, State and Territory governments have agreed to changes to the National Quality Framework (NQF).
- A key change is the introduction of a revised National Quality Standard (NQS). The NQS is a key aspect of the NQF and sets a high, national benchmark for early childhood education and care services in Australia. The revised NQS strengthens quality by using more readily and consistently understood language and removing the overlap of concepts. This will make the NQS more straight-forward for families.
- The review found that the NQF is an important and successful reform with strong stakeholder support. After five years of operation, some technical and operational improvements can be made to the NQF.
- Changes to the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations will commence from 1 October 2017.
- The revised National Quality Standard will come into effect on 1 February 2018.
- Visit [ACECQA's webpage](#) for a summary of key changes.



Health Checks



As part of a range of services to children and families in SA, the Government provides funding to Child and Youth Health to offer free health assessments for Preschool

children. The assessment includes vision; hearing; height and weight; dental health; general discussions with parents on health issues

(eg. Immunisation) and questions on children's growth and development. A CYH Nurse will provide assessments @ KFCC on **Monday 3 April 2017**.

If your child is 4 years and 3 months or older and you want your child to participate, please collect a consent form from our Community Development Coordinator Laura. A parent or caregiver must accompany children to the Health Check.

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, measles and polio. It is important to remember that children are more likely to come into contact with infectious diseases when they are in early childhood settings due to the close contact they have with many other children and adults and their general lack of exposure.

If there is an outbreak of an immunisable disease, **children without up to date immunisation will be excluded, even if they appear to be well.**

If you have not provided an up to date immunisation history statement recently could you please provide this information as **soon as possible**. You can get a copy of your child's immunisation history statement:

- Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
- at your local Medicare office
- by calling 1800 653 809
- www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

It's important to keep your child's most recent immunisation history statement so you can use it when proof of immunisation is needed. For example-you can use your child's statement to:

- Help meet immunisation requirements for school
- Document that your child has received all vaccinations required by five years of age.
- Help with eligibility for the Child Care Benefit.
- Show an up-to-date immunisation status for the Family Assistance Office.

Community Development

We've had a great start to the year with many parents from both within the Children Centre and those from the wider community attending our first parent information session for the year "The Wonderful World of Toddlers". Thank you also to the families who came to the years' first PJ Story time on 15th February.

This year we are continuing to offer programs in collaboration with City of Tea Tree Gully, with both Mucky Ducks art/craft and My Baby new parent group welcoming new families this term.

Upcoming evening sessions include:

SLEEP SOLUTIONS SESSION: for any parent with a child who is a restless sleeper or frequent waker, or those who are wanting to know more about settling strategies and improving sleep behaviours. Presented by Brooke Michelle, Sleep Psychologist.

Wednesday 8th March 6:30pm- crèche available.

Bookings essential

FUN WITH FOOD: aimed at parents of 2- 5 year olds who find it 'tricky' to learn about new foods, maybe 'picky' or 'fussy' eaters or may find mealtimes a challenging experience. Facilitated by Daniela, DECD Occupational Therapist and Tamara, DECD Speech Pathologist. Date to be confirmed

Additional evening programs offered within the community:

STRATEGIES FOR RECOGNISING & RESPONDING TO YOUR CHILD'S BEHAVIOUR: for parents who are looking for new strategies and tools to better understand and respond more effectively to their child's behaviour. Presented by Jodie Benveniste, Psychologist, parenting author and intuitive parenting specialist.

Thursday 9th March 6pm- 8pm at Ingle Farm Children's Centre.

To book phone Kendall: 8260 3511 or email kendall.crabtree@sa.gov.au

WHY PARENTS TODAY MATTER MORE THAN EVER:

Building a healthy relationship with your child "A wake up call". For any parent, or interested community member.

Presented by Joy Anasta, Psychotherapist, clinical supervisor, counsellor, mediator and parent coach.

Wednesday 22nd March, 7pm- 9pm at Golden Grove High School

To register attendance online: <https://joyanasta2017.eventbrite.com.au> or phone Laura: 8251 2700

If at any stage you are looking for extra information about child development related topics or parenting please touch base. We have a range of brochures and resources within our parent library that you are welcome to borrow at any time.

Children's Centre Photos



Jade Kearns (Photographer) will be visiting KFCC on Tuesday 14 March and again on Thursday 16 March to take professional photos of your children. Envelopes with all the details have

been distributed to families – if you have misplaced your envelope please ask in the office for another. Payments for photos are to be made directly to Jade via direct debit no later than Wednesday 8 March.

Please note: without payment received and consent signed, children will not be photographed.

Families whose children do not normally attend on a Tuesday or Thursday can organise a time with the Centre to drop in to have their child photographed.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday 7 March:

Road Safety School for Tuesday Preschool children

Wednesday 8 March:

Sleep Solutions @ 6.30pm

Monday 13 March:

Public Holiday

Tuesday 14 March:

Professional photographer

Thursday 16 March:

Professional Photographer

Wednesday 22 March:

Joy Anasta "Relationships with families"
Golden Grove High School @ 7pm

Monday 27 March:

Governing Council Meeting (All welcome).

Monday 3 April:

Health Checks
Return raffle books

Friday 7 April:

No Preschool – Staff Meeting Day.

Monday 10 April:

Easter raffle draw

Thursday 13 April:

Last preschool day for Term 1.

Friday 14 April:

Easter Friday – Public Holiday

Monday 17 April:

Easter Monday – Public Holiday

Long day Care continues during the scheduled school holidays

Tuesday 18 April to Friday 28 April

(Tuesday 25 April – Public Holiday – Anzac Day)

Preschool recommences: Monday 1 May 2017.



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